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Inter-Arab Affairs

League Envoy Returns From Visit to Iraq, Kuwait

NC3112120392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Dr. Rashid Idris, the Arab League secretary general's envoy charged with helping resolve the issue of the Kuwaiti POWs, returned to Cairo today. Dr. Idris is expected to present a report to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid later today on the results of his visit over the past few days to Iraq, where he met with officials and discussed this problem.

Dr. Idris also visited Kuwait as part of his mission. The Kuwaiti authorities presented a list of more than 800 people remaining in Iraq, among them 700 Kuwaitis. The rest are from various countries.

Cordon States To Send UN Proposal on Deportees

JN3012181392 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Informed diplomatic sources have told our radio that contacts are being held by the Arab cordon states within the Arab League aimed at preparing a joint formula concerning the Palestinian deportees. The formula will be sent to the United Nations after the mission of UN envoy James Jonah is completed.

The formula now under discussion would request that the Security Council adopt a resolution defining the means by which its Resolution 799, related to the return of the Palestinian deportees, can be implemented. The formula calls for intervention by the large powers, be they permanent or temporary members of the Security Council, to compel Israel to implement the resolution since it represents international legitimacy.

Our radio has learned that the cordon states are currently holding contacts with several influential international powers aimed at adopting effective and serious arrangements if Israel fails to abide by the UN resolution, provided these arrangements are effected within a definite timeframe to save the deportees who are exposed to extremely harsh conditions.

Earlier, the PLO demanded a timeframe for implementing the resolution and a clear plan of implementation, and also expressed its fear that Resolution 799 will meet the same fate as previous UN resolutions adopted against Israel.

Egypt Hopes To Arrange al-Asad-'Arafat Meeting

PM3012165092 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Dec 92 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Cairo Resumes Endeavors To Arrange Summit Meeting Between al-Asad and 'Arafat"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Cairo has resumed its endeavors to arrange a meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to bring the two sides' views closer.

Arab sources in Cairo told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Egyptian efforts are expected to produce an agreement on a date for the al-Asad-'Arafat meeting in January within the framework of increasing coordination at the level of the Arab cordon states to tackle the difficult phase the peace negotiations are experiencing, especially after the Palestinian side's insistence on its position of not resuming participation in the negotiations until a radical solution to the Palestinian deportees problem has been secured.

Cairo sources pointed out that the Palestinian-Syrian meeting, which is designed to secure complete reconciliation between Syria and the PLO and to eliminate the reasons for the coolness in recent months, could be a prelude to an agreement to hold a meeting of the Arab cordon states at the leadership level. However, they did not clarify the possibility of Egypt's participation in such a meeting. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Meeting With Ghali, France's Dumas

JN3012202792 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1937 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-'Ammar, by Nabil Sahbagh in Geneva on 30 December; carried within the "Today's Guest" program—recorded]

[Text] [Sahbagh] Abu-'Ammar, we welcome you to Radio Monte Carlo. You have met separately in Geneva with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, and you discussed with them the issue of the Palestinian deportees. My first question is: How was the atmosphere of the talks?

['Arafat] In fact, the atmosphere of the talks was positive. We found good response to our proposal that a speedy solution to this tragedy be found. This is not only a human tragedy, but a political tragedy as well. It is a process of transfer [preceding word in English], an act of ethnic cleansing by Israel. It is a war crime against our cadres and leadership. There are a number of brother leaders on all levels. We have asked the secretary general to explain how Resolution 799 can be implemented. In his capacity as UN secretary general, he is responsible for following up on its implementation. He sent [UN envoy

James] Jonah. I told him what Rabin brazenly said after Jonah was sent. Rabin seemed as though he was uninterested, unaffected, and oblivious to the UN resolutions or their implementation, or even international legitimacy. I asked him whether international legitimacy has one or two standards. One standard against Palestine and the Arab nation and one standard in Israel's favor?

Of course, he said that he sent Jonah and was waiting for a final report. He also said that this issue should be thoroughly discussed. I told him that we demand another resolution stating that this is a war crime so that the seventh chapter of the UN Charter will apply. I asked him when he would write his report? He answered within 48 hours, adding that the final report from Jonah had not reached him yet. Immediately after that, we will do what is necessary, he said.

We also agreed that there are UN resolutions concerning our occupied territory from the beginning of the intifadah until now. These are 605, 607, 608, 681, 726, and finally 799. Israel is going too far in holding these resolutions in contempt and in rejecting UN resolutions.

[Sabbagh] Concerning James Jonah, apparently when he met with Rabin he proposed the deportees be transferred to a third country. What do you say to this proposal?

['Arafat] This is absolutely rejected. The deportees—these people are not deportees, they are expellees—the expellees have no land, state, or homeland except the Palestinian homeland. This contravenes the Fourth Geneva Convention. It is a war crime, and the UN Security Council and the United Nations must adopt immediate, sound, and effective resolutions to ensure their return.

[Sabbagh] What is the practical mechanism for implementing Resolution 799?

['Arafat] Resolution 799 is left for the UN secretary general, who has sent Jonah. However, Jonah returned with empty hands after he was told that they [Israel] would not retreat from their decisions, which, they said, are irrevocable. Therefore, we have to return to the Security Council and tell it: We want a binding resolution based on Chapter Seven.

[Sabbagh] Abu-'Ammar, how do you view the Lebanese Government's position?

['Arafat] I the Lebanese Government's response to us and our brother deportees, who refuse to enter Lebanon. [sentence incomplete as heard] We also refuse to tell them to enter Lebanon. Lebanon is not a homeland for the Palestinians. We support the Lebanese Government's brotherly, principled position, and our brother deportees also support it.

[Sabbagh] Abu-'Ammar, let us talk about your meeting with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. Did he make any promises to you regarding putting pressure on Israel one way or another?

['Arafat] After meeting with the UN secretary general, I had a good opportunity to meet with Roland Dumas. We discussed all these issues in light of the fact that France is a permanent Security Council member state. We appreciate France for its honorable position defending the deportees and rejecting the Israeli crime. I also thanked him again for the position President Mitterrand took when he visited our occupied land. During that visit, he made his famous statement in which he said that the resolution establishing Israel was not completely implemented because the first provision called for establishing a Palestinian state and the second provision called for establishing a Jewish state, which was later named Israel. That was Resolution 81. President Mitterrand talked with his usual clarity, frankness, and bravery. I discussed with Roland Dumas Israel's disdain for the resolutions and its refusal to implement them. Moreover, it officially announced to the UN envoy that it would not implement them. We also agreed that France would continue its efforts to return the deportees. This is a principled, ethical position it is adopting. We also talked about another resolution, which may be issued after next Monday, to confront this serious Israeli position we view as a challenge, not only to the Palestinian people but also to the international community, the international will, and the United Nations.

[Sabbagh] Abu-'Ammar, can we say that the new resolution you have mentioned will impose economic sanctions on the Hebrew state?

['Arafat] I discussed this issue with Roland Dumas since France is a permanent Security Council member state. We will continue our contacts with other Security Council member states, including the permanent member states. I would like to ask: How can the United Nations and the Security Council implement their resolutions? Is not Israel's ethnic cleansing an intransigent and unethical stand, which tramples international resolutions and legitimacy underfoot? Where are the sanctions? Is not Israel subject to the penal code?

Let me say this to my brother expellees, who are proudly holding out at Marj al-Zuhur on Mount Hermon, and to their families in our occupied land: It will not be long before the dawn breaks; victory is at hand; your steadfastness, along with the children of the stones is paving the road to Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine, God willing. They see the day indeed as a far off event, but we see it quite near. [Koranic verse]

[Sabbagh] It seems that the entire Gaza Strip is now under a complete curfew. Do you think the clamping of the curfew has anything to do with the approaching 28th anniversary of Fatah's establishment.

['Arafat] Let me first point out that it will not be just Fatah that will mark the occasion. That is a day for the Palestinian revolution and people to observe, it being the day when the Palestinian revolution erupted.

I would like to ask how on earth a million Palestinians can be confined to their homes under a curfew for three

consecutive weeks. Do you realize what this means? It means that there will be famine in Gaza, a catastrophe, while the world is looking on. Where are human rights and where is international legitimacy? I am asking those who have sent 32,000 troops to Somalia, why they cannot send another 32,000 to enforce the implementation of UN and Security Council resolutions.

[Sabbagh] [Egyptian] President Mubarak sent a second letter to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin warning against the expelles problem dragging on and the potential consequences for the peace process...

[Arafat, interrupting] I want to remind you of the [24 December] statement issued by the five foreign ministers of the cordon states. It said that a continuation of the peace negotiations will be subject to the repatriation of the expellers. The mass expulsions are, without a doubt, a blow to the peace process. The matter ought to be taken up by the cosponsors of the conference and the United Nations and international community. If Rabin thinks that he can bring the Palestinian people to their knees through the arrogance of power, I would like him to know that they have never surrendered to anyone. The blessed Palestinian intifadah shall continue wave after wave, armed with robust and firm national unity until the Palestinian flag flutters over the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine.

[Sabbagh] Speaking of the peace process, the Palestinian leadership convened meetings in Tunis that were joined by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. What was the atmosphere like at the meetings, and did any decisions result which can be translated organizationally and on the ground?

[Arafat] Look, the meeting brought Palestinian leaders together. I am grateful to my brothers in Hamas for having taken part in the meeting, the first time they have done so. Likewise, the Islamic Jihad participated for the first time. That was an expression of the unity of the Palestinian people. It went to show that the Israeli measures have only stiffened our resolve and enhanced and consolidated our national unity. Naturally, they have their own opinion, which we respect, the way we respect the opinion of others. This is Palestinian democracy.

When we went to Madrid under unjust conditions—and I repeat, unjust conditions—we were frank with our people. They were unjust terms, but we went to change those terms. I did not win unanimous support. The decision was passed with a 84.5 percent majority. This means there were objections. Some people rejected the resolution, objected to it, and did not sanction it. But this is Palestinian democracy, which is one of the powerful shields in our difficult and long march. I would like to tell you what our independence declaration says: The majority respects the opinion of the minority, and the minority is committed to the opinion of the majority. This is the democracy of which we in the Palestinian revolution are proud

[Sabbagh] Abu-'Ammar, so far no decision has been made to stop or suspend negotiations with the Israeli side.

[Arafat] This is because we are still studying the issue. We can never make such a step before contacting all of our brothers who are with us in the peace march. We called for a meeting of the five cordon states and they announced that the return of the brother deportees can ensure the continuation of the negotiations. But I also said the same thing to all Arab foreign ministers, since 18 Arab states are taking part in the multilateral talks. I also appealed to the presidential bureau [preceding two words in English] of the Islamic summit which will be held in Dakar on 8 January, God willing. I also appealed to the Committee of Nine and the Nonaligned Movement Coordination Bureau to discuss this subject.

As you can see, we have moved from the Security Council in New York, to Dakar in Africa, to France and Europe, to Russia, to China, to Japan, and to the Nonaligned Movement's chairman, Indonesia. As you can see, the Palestinians are moving across the globe.

[Sabbagh] Abu-'Ammar, in conclusion, can you address a message to the Palestinian people on Christmas and New Year's?

[Arafat] Of course, I sent greetings on Christmas to my brothers in Bethlehem, Bayt Sahur, Bayt Jala, and the other brothers and beloved Christians. As for the new year, I tell my people that, God willing, 1993 will be the year of comprehensive stride toward the beloved Palestinian land, the holy land, the land which God has blessed, the Palestinian land, the land of peace, religions, the land of the Palestinian people. Together until victory. And to enter your temple as they had entered it before, and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power. [Koranic verse]

[Sabbagh] Thank you, Abu-'Ammar.

Paris TV Notes 'Arafat Meetings

LD3012140392 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1200 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Excerpt] The fate of the 415 Palestinians stranded between Israel and Lebanon was discussed in Geneva this morning. PLO President Yasir 'Arafat met with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and a few moments ago with Roland Dumas, our minister of foreign affairs, Philippe Rochot:

[Rochot] Yasir 'Arafat met with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali before holding talks with Roland Dumas to try and find a solution to the fate of the 415 Palestinians stuck in southern Lebanon. 'Arafat favors the sending of French humanitarian assistance, but there was little progress on this. The PLO leader insisted that the Security Council resolution ordering Israel to repatriate the expelled people should be implemented. But 'Arafat also knows that Israel would like the Palestinians

to be received by a third country until the end of their banishment. [passage omitted]

'Arafat on Peace Talks, U.S. 'Commitment'

NC3112071792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2224 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has warned against the consequences for the Arab region if the peace negotiations fail. He said the region will be plunged into complete chaos if the current negotiations—which the Palestinians accepted under unfair conditions—fail. He added that the current Balkanization process in Yugoslavia will be a small "rehearsal" for what will happen on a larger scale in the Arab region.

In an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR to be published Friday, 'Arafat held Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin responsible for this situation because Rabin committed the crime of deporting the Palestinians, which 'Arafat said is a war crime comparable to those tried at Nuremberg.

The Palestinian president strongly attacked Rabin, calling him the sole impediment to peace. He added that he never will forget Rabin's participation with Sharon in besieging Beirut and the crimes committed against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

Replying to a question on reports about Israel's intention to return Gaza to Egypt, 'Arafat called on Israel to return Gaza to Egypt, the West Bank to Jordan, the Golan to Syria, and the Lebanese territory to Lebanon. He noted that Israel puts forward such notions periodically as tactical maneuvers, to play on our nerves and throw dust in our eyes.

The Palestinian president reiterated his rejection of the Israeli-proposed idea of municipal elections in the occupied territories. He said: What we want are legislative elections according to the letter of guarantees and the letter of invitations to the peace conference.

He pointed out that he does not accept conditions from Israel and added that he wants Israel to be committed to the rules of the game and to the framework and principles on which the peace talks were based, that is to say Bush's initiative of land for peace and the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 which means withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories, including holy Jerusalem.

'Arafat noted that U.S. President George Bush's recent meeting with Arab delegations and the Palestinian delegation comprising members from the occupied land, Jerusalem, and the diaspora is a clear message from the U.S. Administration confirming U.S. recognition of the unity of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories and Jerusalem, something Israel so far has rejected.

Commenting on the U.S. commitment to the peace process under the new administration of President-elect Bill Clinton, 'Arafat expressed his belief that Clinton will not give Israel more than President Bush has offered.

He said that 1993 will be a real test for President Clinton, his commitment to what he has said about democracy and human rights, and the possibility of the Palestinian people enjoying these rights and democracy in their independent state.

'Arafat denied that the PLO rejects holding elections out of fear of the Hamas Movement. He noted that the PLO won 25 out of 29 of the various elections held in the occupied land in 1992.

Replying to a question on talk that the water problem may delay Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank or the Golan, 'Arafat emphasized that this means expansion. If this is true, he said, the answer is not with him, but with the entire Arab nation and its leaders.

To a question on rumors that the Gulf states intend to extend aid to the Palestinians through Hamas, the Palestinian president pointed out that the oil countries have not given the Palestinian people a single penny for 32 months now and that therefore, the Gaza Strip is suffering from famine.

PLO, Hamas Talks Said 'Positive Development'

TA3012140392 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 30 Dec 92 pp 1, 11

[Text] Gaza—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, expressed satisfaction over the meetings between the Palestinian leadership and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. He said: The mere fact that these meetings were held is a positive development in the relationship between Hamas and the Palestinian leadership, that the talks will resume in Khartoum is especially positive.

'Abd-al-Shafi added: The desired aim of the meetings is to establish a Palestinian leadership that includes all active factions, including Hamas.

On Hamas' demand that the PLO declare its final withdrawal from the negotiations and how it will effect results, 'Abd-al-Shafi said: Finally boycotting the negotiations will require a great deal of evaluation and thought. The Palestinian leadership has not yet adopted any decisive decision, but commitment to the principle of peace is a clear PLO strategy. Despite this, one cannot rule out other solutions.

Officials Comment on Meeting

JN3012132992 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Dec 92 p 20, 27

[By Amman correspondent Riyad Mansur]

[Excerpt] 'Abd-al-Rahim Mallub, PLO Executive Committee member and member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has emphasized that no Palestinian negotiator would dare go to the peace negotiations without the return of the 415 Palestinian deportees to their homeland because this negotiator would face great questions from the people, the deportees, and their families.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Mallub described as harmful Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's statement telling the Israeli authorities to execute the killer of the Israeli soldier. He said 'Arafat was, consciously or unconsciously, giving the Israelis a pretext to escalate their repression and terrorism.

He added that President 'Arafat has said that the statement made during the meetings of the Palestinian leadership was distorted. However, Mallub said: It was a bad and inappropriate time even to meet with Israeli journalists during these circumstances.

The PLO Executive Committee stressed that the meeting held in Tunis, in which the Hamas movement participated, has emphasized that the Palestinian people support the cause of the deportees as a national cause. He said the meeting has foiled one side of Rabin's plan to divide the Palestinian ranks into extremists and moderates.

Mallub expressed great dismay that the results of the Palestinian leadership's meetings were not on the level of the challenges facing the Palestinians. He added that the immediate answer of the Palestinian leadership should have been the immediate withdrawal from the current political process. [passage omitted]

Split in Arab Liberation Front Reported

PM311209092 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Dec 92 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Split in 'Arab Liberation Front' Ends Iraqi Presence in Palestinian Frameworks"]

[Excerpts] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Authoritative Palestinian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that a split has occurred in the pro-Iraqi "Arab Liberation Front" and that Jamil Shahadah, one of the Front's senior leaders, who has for several years been resident in Tunis, led a rebellion against Secretary General Nayif 'Awwad, who resides permanently in Baghdad and moves between Amman and the Tunisian capital from time to time.

Those analyzing the situation on the Palestinian scene believe that this split—whatever its outcome—will end the Iraqi extension on the Palestinian scene and will destroy the remaining Iraqi presence in Palestinian frameworks. [passage omitted]

With regard to the split, the first to hit this front since its establishment early in 1969, there is information that those who embarked on it were tired of the actions dictated by Iraqi intelligence for their colleagues in the leadership. According to this information, Jamil Shahadah tried to persuade Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to espouse the split and provide the necessary financing for it, but it seems that Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] refused to intervene. He advised them of the need to unite themselves "because the Palestinian scene does not need any further fragmentation, especially in these circumstances."

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's sources said that Jamil Shahadah's colleagues advised him not to go to Baghdad at all for fear for his life. He seems to be thinking of going to Iraq in a bid to win the support of Iraqi officials and Iraqi organs for his movement. While the information confirms that Nayif went to Tunis to contain the split and prevent the PLO from supporting him [Shahadah], nothing has been mentioned about the position of the front's representative in the PLO Executive Committee, Mahmud Isma'il (Abu-Ismail), on this development.

It is worth noting that the "Arab Liberation Front" was set up early in 1969, nearly a year after the coup which resulted in the Ba'th Party's seizure of power in Iraq. Its establishment was tantamount to a reply to the growth of the pro-Syrian "Popular Liberation War Vanguards" organization (al-sa'iqah) on the Palestinian scene. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Frenchman Sentenced To Death for Plotting Against State

LD3112090192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Late last night the Tiaret court handed down sentences against five people accused of plotting against the security of the state, including Roger Guillon, a French citizen. The court handed down a death sentence against Roger Guillon, five years in jail against the two Kasri brothers, and eight years against the two Daoud brothers.

Relations Established With Armenia 30 Dec

LD3012151492 Algiers APS in Arabic 1435 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Moscow, 30 Dec (APS)—A protocol was signed this morning, Wednesday [30 December] in Moscow on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Algerian Republic and the Republic of Armenia. The Algerian ambassador to Russia, Hamid Bourki, represented Algeria and the permanent representative of the Republic of Armenia in Russia, Feliks Mamikonyan, represented Armenia at the signing ceremony.

Czech, Slovak Republics To Be Recognized 1 Jan

LD3012195592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Algeria has decided to recognize the Czech and Slovak republics as of 1 January 1993 and to establish relations with them according to the principles of international law and the UN Charter, says a communique issued today by our Foreign Ministry. The Czechs and the Slovaks have decided to split from the former CSFR as of 1 January 1993.

Human Rights League Calls For Meeting

LD2812111992 Algiers APS in English 1036 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Algiers, 28/12/92 (APS)—The Algerian League of Human Rights (L.A.D.H) called all the associations for a meeting "where ways and means will be debated enabling the coming back to the democratic process and the safeguard of human rights and the rights of the country".

In a communique released on Sunday the LADH estimated that this meeting is justified by the "deterioration of the political life [word indistinct] violences threatening the citizen in his life, his security, his quietness, the real absence of the taking in charge of the citizens problems, the restriction of individual and public liberties and the intransigent positions, daily developed, preventing the establishment of a necessary national dialogue around fundamental interests of the country".

On another turn, the LADH noted that "at the time when the public powers are mainly concerned by security and the economic relaunch, fundamental questions of the citizen are not taken in charge by the politico-associative movement", and considers that "without the mobilization of citizens by their representatives around fundamental objectives of the nation, the democratic process introduced by the Constitution of February 23, 1989, would remain a dead letter".

Human Rights Official on Detention Centers

LD3012190492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Interview granted by Rezzak Bara, chairman of the National Human Rights Monitoring Group to unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Mr. Bara, chairman of the National Human Rights Monitoring Group, welcome. Let us open this interview with the latest news, which is this morning's meeting of the Algerian Committee for Solidarity with the people of Bosn'a- Hercegovina, of which you are chairman. Could you tell the listeners about the major points of that meeting?

[Bara] Thank you. Before talking about the committee's meeting, I would perhaps like to remind the listeners about the depth of the tragedy facing the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina following the outbreak of the war on 6 April 1992. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Rezzak, let us keep open the subject of the monitoring group's activity, and let us come back to the homeland for a review of the group's activity over the year which ends tomorrow. Very briefly, what about that activity, and are you satisfied with it?

[Bara] [Passage omitted on group's foundation and role]

[Correspondent] When I asked you about your activities, I was hoping that you would point to the issue of detention centers. Those centers were set up, and then followed a decision to scrap administrative detention. You conducted a lot of activity and undertook a lot of contacts, particularly with regard to the issues raised abroad on conditions inside the centers. You had many stances.

[Bara] That is correct. Thank you for the question. Among the concerns we focused attention upon when the group was first set up was the monitoring of conditions at the centers. [passage omitted] As a matter of principle, we believe that it is not possible to strip an individual of his liberties except if he commits a crime provided for in the Penal Code and only after appearing before a court of justice. [passage omitted]

According to the figures we have, in late February, there were about 9,000 citizens in those centers, in May, 4,000; in late October, that number sagged to 2,400. Now

the overall number would not exceed 1,000. There are now only four centres still open: Ouargla, In Amgal, In Salah, and Oued Namous.

You also know that on 8 August there was a Higher State Council statement announcing the closure of those four centres, and since then the administration has dropped administrative detention, particularly now that we have at our disposal a number of legal tools for confronting the grave security situation in the country. I say that very soon, administrative detention will cease to exist. As for conditions inside the centers, there are about 8,000 citizens who have been through those centers and not a single misdemeanor or act of torture has been reported. I am aware that their placement at the centers was not satisfactory in the first place. However, if there was talk of people having their dignity infringed upon, as far as we know, no such things happened.

[Correspondent] Mr. Bara, let us dwell further on the security situation before we move on to other activity. The security situation continues to raise concern. Among the aspects which have over the last few months been focused upon was the legal side. What is the nature of the new legal tools for confronting that situation.

[Bara] As you know, the country has lived under a state of emergency since 9 February, [passage omitted] We have two different sets of texts. The first set consists of texts arising from the state of emergency. The second set is the Anti-terrorism Act. All these texts are provisional; they have not become part of the ordinary legal and legislative system of Algeria. They are special and exceptional texts which could perhaps be scrapped once the reason for their enforcement has ceased to exist. [passage omitted]

Bomb Explosion in Khenchla Secondary School

LD3012133292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

A bomb went off today [as heard] at Merkana, a secondary school in Khenchla, as our correspondent confirms in this report:

[Correspondent] After last Saturday's bomb which nearly destroyed Chikal Bachir secondary school and killed its students, there was another act of sabotage about 1230 yesterday, only this time at the Merkana El Djedida in Khenchla. The bomb, home-made and planted by a 19 year old in a satchel he abandoned in a classroom, went off minutes afterward but only caused light physical damage. Following investigation, the police were able to arrest the culprit who is currently under questioning. [passage omitted]

Egypt

'Amr Musa: Efforts on Deportee Problem Continue

NC3012154292 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed that the Arab Republic of Egypt is continuing its efforts to find a solution to the problem of the Palestinian deportees based on their return to their homeland. He told journalists that 1992 witnessed a change in the general climate of the peace process, which has grown to be an essential process.

Musa said the continuation of the peace negotiations requires further efforts. Egypt is currently working to surmount obstacles to the peace process, he said, especially Israel's recent decision to deport Palestinians from their homes. He described the Israeli move as an effective blow to the peace process and stressed the importance of giving peace a chance. This, he said, is the duty of all concerned parties. He said Egypt is calling on Israel to do this, especially concerning the issue of the deportees.

UN Envoy on Palestinian Deportation Arrives

NC3012172192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1646 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA)—James Jonah, assistant UN secretary general and Dr. Butrus-Ghali's personal envoy, arrived in Cairo this evening to discuss the problem of the Palestinian deportees. He traveled from Jerusalem on board a special plane.

Jonah made no statement on the nature of his mission.

Syrians Say Iran Ready for Exploratory Dialogue

PM3112114392 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 28 Dec-3 Jan p 1

[Unattributed report]

[Text] High-level Arab sources have emphasized that Syrian officials told the Egyptian leadership that Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani is willing to hold "meetings of dialogue and openness" between the Iranians and the Egyptians, provided that these meetings begin at expert and diplomatic level in any neutral country to be agreed. They would then be upgraded gradually according to the progress achieved, to eventually be held at foreign minister level.

The sources pointed out that Rafsanjani is willing to meet with President Husni Mubarak in Damascus or any other capital to be agreed, if a formula is reached to restore relations to their normal status between the two countries. The Syrians proposed that media campaigns between Cairo and Tehran be suspended as a preparatory step to help initiate the dialogue.

Paper Praises Christopher, Woolsey Appointments

NC3112084492 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 28 Dec 92 p 9

[Editorial: "Clinton's New Administration"]

[Text] U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton so far has succeeded in convincing observers that his appointments for the new Democratic administration, which will officially assume power in January, are sound and clever. First of all, the selections have reflected Clinton's awareness and enlightened understanding of the requirements and demands of the new stage. The appointments, moreover, have proven that Clinton is determined to keep the promises and pledges he made during his election campaign.

Hence his selection of Warren Christopher as secretary of state. Christopher led the negotiations to release the U.S. hostages in Tehran, and he assumed the task of resolving the crisis of the Los Angeles Police Department—missions that required composure, intelligence, and tactical abilities. After all, the world, overwhelmed with chaos and yet to be firmly established on the foundations of a new world order, needs an expert in addressing complicated and intertwined problems.

Of no less importance is the naming of Robert James Woolsey, a lawyer with long practice in the policy of defense, as director of the Central Intelligence Agency at a time when the question of nuclear weapons tops the list of problems the new administration will have to face.

Woolsey clearly reflected the inclinations of the new administration in his recent speech. He said the world is now returning to the pre-1914 era, when intense national sentiments led to World War I. He once again raised the concept of collective security in which several countries work under the banner of the United Nations, because old alliances no longer can confront the new problems.

Awqaf Minister Leaves for Paris, Tunisia

NC3012122292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA)—Awqaf Minister Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub left Cairo today for Paris on a two-day visit, after which he will travel to Tunisia on a four-day visit at the invitation of Tunisian Religious Affairs Minister Ali Chabbi.

Before leaving Cairo, Dr. Mahjub said that during his visit to Paris he will meet with the Islamic community there and discuss cooperation ties between them and the Egyptian Awqaf ministry.

He said that during his visit to Tunisia he will hand over a message from President Husni Mubarak to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on bilateral cooperation.

He said that he will sign with Tunisian Religious Affairs Minister Ali Chabbi a religious cooperation protocol that will include an exchange of scholars, books, and publications, and coordination in confronting extremism.

Mubarak Receives Phone Call From Turkey's Ozal

NC3012215592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1749 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from Turkish President Turgut Ozal this evening. The Turkish president congratulated President Mubarak on the new year.

The two presidents also exchanged views on the situation in the region and on a number of issues of mutual concern.

Brotherhood Supports Negotiations With Israel

NC2412123692 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 21 Dec 92 p 34

[Report by Tariq Hasan from Tunisia: "Sayf-al-Islam: Muslim Brothers Support Negotiations with Israel"]

[Text] Ahmad Sayf-al-Islam, member of the Muslim Brotherhood's Guidance Bureau, has voiced the brotherhood's support for negotiations with Israel.

Speaking at a banquet hosted by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat in honor of Arab lawyers who attended a conference in Tunisia last week, Sayf-al-Islam said: The Muslim Brotherhood supports the position of the PLO concerning negotiating with Israel. The brotherhood is not against the negotiations producing some gain to the Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims.

Should the negotiations fail to produce results, Sayf-al-Islam said, the Muslim Brothers will continue to struggle alongside the PLO and seek unity among all ranks, groups, and honorable people.

Sayf-al-Islam, who attended the Tunisia meetings in his capacity as a secretary general of the Egyptian Lawyers Association, voiced his belief that Yasir 'Arafat will not make any substantial concessions to the Israelis.

Yasir 'Arafat had a half-hour chat with Sayf-al-Islam during the dinner, after which the two men had a discussion with Ahmad al-Khawajah, chairman of the Arab Lawyers Association and the Egyptian Lawyers Association, Farug Abu-Isa, secretary general of the Arab Lawyers Association; and Jamal al-Sarani, chairman of the Palestinian Lawyers Association.

Dozens Captured in 'Intensive' Security Campaign

NC3012181692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1621 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA)—Security agencies launched an extensive campaign today to strike at hideouts and hotbeds of terrorism and extremism in 'Ayn Shams in eastern Cairo. Forces from Central Security, Criminal Investigations, Public Security, and Cairo Police participated.

A terrorist accused of throwing an incendiary bomb at a police vehicle in 'Ayn Shams a few months ago has been captured. In that attack, a police lieutenant colonel was injured and the vehicle was burned. Farraj Muhammad 'Uthman, a serious threat to public security, admitted he committed the crime.

The campaign also resulted in the capture of 35 people who were convicted of various security crimes, were suspects, or were registered as security threats. Some 22 people have also been arrested for drug trafficking and nine others for carrying unlicensed weapons.

During the campaign, an extremist called al-Amir Mustafa Ahmad, 21, was also captured. He had been arrested several times for his membership in extremist groups, and he assumed the position of the leader of the military wing of these groups in 'Ayn Shams.

Major General Rida 'Abd-al-'Aziz, assistant interior minister and director of Cairo security, said the campaign will last for two days. It is meant to underscore security in the area, wipe out centers of extremism and terrorism, and apprehend all outlaws there.

He told MENA the security services in Cairo will organize several campaigns in certain areas pursuant to the instructions of Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa. The aim is to underline the rule of law and impose the state's control on the regions that the terrorists imagined they controlled and turned into a state within the state, outside of the grip of justice.

Jihad Organization Commander Interviewed

PM3012151392 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Dec 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Interviews Jihad Organization's Military Commander; Our Contacts With 'Abd-al-Rahman Have Been Cut Off; Isolated Attacks Because of Leaders' Arrest"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani, commander of the military wing of the Jihad organization, said that contacts between him and Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the organization's mufti, who is currently residing in the United States, have been cut off, after they had been in constant contact.

He denied that 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman has any financing or planning role, saying that, if the United States discovered he was playing any role, it would hand him over to Egypt immediately.

Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from behind the bars of the Supreme State Security Court that the attacks in Upper Egypt are isolated actions carried out by young members of the extremist groups because they have lost their influential leaders, who are currently detained.

He added that when "the situation became critical" as a result of the severe pursuit campaign against leaders of the Jihad organization, the group resorted to attacking tourism in Egypt because this represents a blow to the regime after channels of contact were cut off between the organization's members and leaders.

Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani urged the Egyptian Government to hold a dialogue with members of the organization and release its leaders so that tourism incidents will cease. He said that 75 percent of tourism activities in Egypt conflict with Islamic traditions. And that tourists carry out espionage and intelligence actions, in addition to spreading AIDS among the young.

Court Releases 2 Salsabil Defendants on Bail

NC3112094292 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Dec 92 p 8

[Report by Najwa 'Abd-al-'Aziz]

[Text] The consultation chambers of the Northern Cairo Court yesterday ordered the release of two members of the "Salsabil" Company on 200-Egyptian-pounds bail. The court also decided to extend the prison sentence of 16 defendants for another 45 days so the Higher State Security Prosecution, under the supervision of First Attorney General Counselor 'Abd-al-Majid Mahmud, may interrogate them. The court witnessed a heated debate between Chief of Prosecution Hisham Hammudah and the defense. The prosecution said this organization is one of the secret headquarters of the international organization called the Muslim Brotherhood.

Morocco

King Hassan Receives Saudi Defense Minister

LD2912124992 Rabat MAP in English 1217 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] 29 Dec (MAP)—King Hassan II received Monday in Fes Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, defence and aviation minister and general inspector of Saudi armed forces. The sovereign later offered a dinner in the honor of the Saudi prince, currently on a private visit to Morocco.

Sudan

Red Cross Said To Resume Activities in South

EA2912204792 Khartoum SUNA in English 1640 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Dec (SUNA)—A reliable source at the Presidency has said that the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] would be allowed to resume its programmes in southern Sudan. The Presidency's direction has been issued in response to many requests presented by the ICRC in which it pledged to open a new page and to adhere to the government's policies and laws. The ICRC's activity was suspended early this year according to an instruction issued by the Presidency.

Kuwait

Iran Urged To Stop Expansionism Over Islands

LD3012150692 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0710 30 Dec 92

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Dec (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM today said that Iran must clearly admit the historic attachment of the three islands in the Gulf to the United Arab Emirates [UAE], which forms an important element in the security system of the Middle East region. In an editorial entitled "Security Flies With Two Wings," the newspaper affirmed that the security of the region is a collective responsibility that falls primarily on the countries of the region with two important tributaries, i.e. Egypt and Iran.

The newspaper emphasized the importance of renouncing differences between Cairo and Tehran which have started to diminish due to Syria's move to contain them. It pointed out to the increasing Egyptian role in the region and the geographical and historical presence of the state of Iran, by saying that this bilateral rivalry is an important element in the security system in the region.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM called on Iran, which is truly qualified for a large role in the dossier of the region's security, "to rise above narrow calculations and expansionist tendencies, and to put the issue of the islands of Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunbs in its correct and sound place within the collective security belt."

Prime Minister Receives Somali Foreign Minister

LD3012122192 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Excerpt] At 1000 this morning his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, received at his office in Bayan Palace His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Ali Hamud, the foreign affairs minister of the sisterly Republic of Somalia, and his accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

* Oil Minister Discusses Border, Impact on Oil

93AE0205A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Dec 92 p 9

[Article by Hamad al-Jasir: "Al-Baghli: Kuwait To Take Over New Wells as Soon as Border With Iraq Is Demarcated"]

[Text] Kuwait—Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali al-Baghli deemed it unlikely that the Kuwaiti Petroleum Corporation's investments outside Kuwait had been affected by the Kuwaiti investment disaster in Spain. He said: "There are no troubles confronting the Petroleum Corporation's activities in Europe and Asia, and Kuwait has no oil investments in Spain."

Al-Baghli, who was responding to written questions directed to him, said that Kuwait is striving to develop its oil industry projects at home and abroad and to make them "an investment resource." Interest is focusing on "Kuwaitizing" the petroleum industry labor force and developing indigenous talents. He said that the number of producing oil wells already has reached 420. Seventy of them are new, and 350 have been repaired. Kuwait's daily production has reached 1.38 million barrels. He estimated the costs of restoring the oil sector at $15 billion, with $1 billion of this being the cost of extinguishing fires. Al-Baghli predicted that Kuwait will take over oil wells from Iraq after the demarcation of the marine boundaries between the two countries is completed.

The Kuwaiti minister said that Kuwait's current production is 1.380 million barrels a day, in addition to Kuwait's share of the oil from al-Khafji, which Kuwait divided with Saudi Arabia. He added that the divided area now produces approximately 300,000 barrels a day, split equally with Saudi Arabia.

Al-Baghli confirmed that oil production capital expenditures had risen. He attributed this to the fact that the retreating Iraqi forces had set fire to nearly 700 wells—"in addition to dozens of collection centers, oil transport pipelines, and storage tanks. They also stole equipment and replacement parts." He said: "We will demand all these sums from Iraq. We have had the damages and their causes recorded by accredited international bodies and have prepared the files for making the claim."

He added: "We have not received the wells that Iraq wrongfully took over by force in the area we call al-Ratqah, but which Iraq calls al-Rumaylah." Kuwait will receive the wells "when the marine boundaries are demarcated." He indicated that demarcation of the land boundaries has been completed and that setting the marine boundaries will be the final stage of the task of demarcating the boundaries between the two countries.

Responding to a question about the Kuwaiti Petroleum Corporation's [KPC] investments abroad and the extent to which they had been affected by the fate of Kuwait's investments in Spain, he said that the Kuwaiti Petroleum Corporation and its industrial and commercial activities in Europe "have not been affected by any unusual troubles recently." He pointed out that the corporation had no investments in Spain. He said, "Any development of the oil industry abroad falls under the heading of diversifying investment locations and resources." He added that the Kuwaiti Government did not intend to sell KPC's operations in the European countries or those of KAFCO (Kuwait Aviation Fueling Company) to the private sector "in the near future."

He said he had "ambitious plans" for "Kuwaitizing" the oil sector. This was one of the most prominent slogans of the recent election campaign. He said, "We are encouraging hiring more Kuwaitis in this vital sector and substituting them for foreign workers." He indicated that the number of Kuwaitis [in the oil sector] now is 10,572 and that they constituted 72 percent of the total number of workers. But he added: "Our concern is quality, not quantity—meaning that we also want to develop and improve the abilities of

these young people. We want to acquaint them with technological tools and modern methods and develop their skills in this vital area."

Asked whether he was optimistic about the continued cohesion of OPEC after Ecuador's withdrawal, he said, "The existence of the organization, instead of confusion and separate decision making, brings great benefit to the members."

* Oil Minister on Foreign, Domestic Investments

93AE0204A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Dec 92 p 13

[Interview with Oil Minister 'Ali al-Baghli by Hamad al-Jasir in Kuwait; date not given: "Privatization To Begin Domestically, Move to Q8's Operations in Future"]

[Text] Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali al-Baghli deemed it unlikely that the Kuwaiti Petroleum Corporation's [Q8] investments outside Kuwait had been affected by the Kuwaiti investment disaster in Spain. He said, "There are no troubles confronting the Petroleum Corporation's activities in Europe and Asia, and Kuwait has no oil investments in Spain." In conversation with AL-HAYAH he indicated that privatization of Q8's operations will not begin in the near future; privatization will begin with fuel distribution stations and gas pipelines in Kuwait.

The minister said that his country is striving to develop its oil industry projects at home and abroad and to make them "an investment resource." Interest is focusing on Kuwaitizing the petroleum industry labor force and developing indigenous talents.

He said that the number of producing oil wells in Kuwait already has reached 420. Seventy of them are new, and 350 have been repaired. Kuwait's daily production has reached 1.38 million barrels. He estimated the costs of restoring the oil sector to operation at $15 billion, with $1 billion of this being the cost of extinguishing fires.

Here is the text of the interview.

[Al-Jasir] What is Kuwait's current production, and what is the production goal for the coming year? What is the status of the plan for returning wells to operation, and how many new wells have been dug to date?

[Al-Baghli] Kuwait's production currently is about 1.380 million barrels a day, in addition to Kuwait's share of the oil from al-Khafji, which Kuwait divides with Saudi Arabia. The number of producing oil wells already has reached about 420. Of this number, 350 have been repaired, and 70 are new wells.

[Al-Jasir] High capital expenditures on the oil industry are said to have raised production costs. What are your estimates of the cost of extracting and exporting a barrel of oil in Kuwait now?

[Al-Baghli] The capital expenditures that have been made were directed mainly toward repairing what the Iraqi forces intentionally and premeditatedly sabotaged by setting fires and blowing up nearly 700 oil wells and dozens of collection centers, oil transport pipelines, and storage tanks. Equipment and replacement parts were also stolen. All these expenditures that we have been forced to make to restore production to what it was in the past—before the barbaric occupation of Kuwait—inevitably increase the cost of production. God willing, by virtue of the Security Council resolutions we will demand from the aggressor every dollar spent for this purpose.

[Al-Jasir] How much have expenditures on restoring the oil sector to operation amounted to? How much will be spent in the near future to complete the return to pre-invasion production capacity?

[Al-Baghli] Costs of restoring the oil sector to operation and clearing the effects of the invasion are expected to range between $10 billion and $15 billion, including about $1 billion in costs for extinguishing oil well fires. As you know, we will demand all these sums from Iraq. We have had the damages and their causes recorded by accredited international bodies and have prepared the files for making the claim.

[Al-Jasir] What is now the production of the divided area and how is its production divided?

[Al-Baghli] The divided area's production now is about 300,000 barrels a day. It is divided equally between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

[Al-Jasir] What has happened regarding the oil wells that returned to Kuwait after the redrawing of the border with Iraq—the al-Ratqah field? What is its expected production value, and will production begin soon?

[Al-Baghli] We have not received the wells that Iraq wrongfully took over by force in the area we call al-Ratqah, but which Iraq calls al-Rumaylah. When the marine boundaries are demarcated finally, now that demarcation of the land boundaries has been completed (the completion will be announced, I think, when the job as a whole is finished), we shall receive the wells that Iraq without right has been exploiting all this time, wrongfully alleging that we were exhausting oil reserves from our territory. That was the reason Iraq mentioned in the note it distributed to the Arab League in mid-July 1990 to sow seeds for the invasion and give it a justification or logical cover, although it certainly fooled no reasonable person.

[Al-Jasir] Oil prices internationally are tending to decrease. What do you think are the reasons for the decrease?

[Al-Baghli] As everyone knows, oil prices are exceedingly sensitive. They fall and rise for any reason, like currency prices at certain times. However, there are some obvious reasons. For example, production from what used to be called the Soviet Union has entered the market. There are reports that Iraqi oil will be exported again. There is the increase in oil reserves, and the predicted cold winter has not taken place. All these reasons have contributed to

low prices. I am confident that the organization's member countries will take appropriate responsible measures to protect their interests by adjusting low prices to a price appropriate according to market mechanisms, supply and demand, and other factors.

[Al-Jasir] OPEC itself is exposed to dangers of a split, particularly after the withdrawal of Ecuador. Are you optimistic about OPEC's continued cohesion?

[Al-Baghli] Yes, I am optimistic about OPEC's continuance, despite Ecuador's withdrawal. The withdrawal will not affect the organization, because Ecuador is a small producer. The existence of the organization, instead of confusion and separate decision making about this vital material, brings great benefit to the members.

[Al-Jasir] Iraq has said that it will demand a quota to compensate for the halt in pumping since the attack on Kuwait. What is Kuwait's position on this?

[Al-Baghli] This is a matter that concerns Iraq alone. But one should not forget that the reasons for Iraq's ceasing to export go back to reasons relating to Iraq, such as the fact that Iraq's political leaders have not submitted to resolutions that the Security Council issued after the war that Iraq started and that caused all the damage that embraced Kuwait, Iraq, and all the countries of the region.

[Al-Jasir] The Kuwaiti Petroleum Corporation has huge investments abroad and commercial and industrial activities in many countries in Europe and Asia. Have these investments been affected by the troubles facing Kuwait's other investments in Spain and elsewhere? Has developing the oil industry abroad become a substitute for developing the industry domestically?

[Al-Baghli] Thank God, the Kuwaiti Petroleum Corporation's investments and its industrial and commercial activities in Europe and Asia have not been affected by any unusual troubles recently. The corporation has no oil investments in Spain. Any development of the oil industry abroad falls under the heading of diversifying investment locations and resources. We are concentrating on domestic investment and oil development. After the reoperationalizing process, we shall begin other projects that came to a halt because of the brutal Iraq occupation: for example, expanding refineries to produce improved kinds of petroleum products that bring good return. There are also gigantic petrochemical projects that we intend to build with appropriate foreign participation on terms satisfactory to all parties. We have received many proposals in this regard, and they are currently being studied.

[Al-Jasir] Does the Kuwaiti Government intend to sell the operations of Q8 to the private sector in some European countries?

[Al-Baghli] Not in the near future.

[Al-Jasir] Will the Oil Ministry relinquish some of its activities domestically to the private sector, as happened with gasoline stations for example?

[Al-Baghli] We will begin with fuel distribution stations and gas pipelines and see what happens in the future.

[Al-Jasir] Is it true that KAFCO (Kuwait Aviation Fueling Company) also will be offered for sale to the private sector?

[Al-Baghli] Not in the near future.

[Al-Jasir] The demand for "Kuwaitizing" the oil sector was one of the most prominent slogans of the recent election campaign. Do you have definite plans for "Kuwaitizing"? What are the current figures for Kuwaitis in the oil industry? What is the desired figure?

[Al-Baghli] Yes, we have ambitious plans in this regard. We are encouraging hiring more Kuwaitis in this vital sector and substituting them for foreign workers. The number of Kuwaitis in the oil sector now is about 10,572, and they constitute 72 percent of the total number of workers. We hope to see more, but our concern is quality, not quantity—meaning that we also want to develop and improve the abilities of these young people. We want to acquaint them with technological tools and modern methods and develop their skills in this vital area.

Oman

Minister Confers With Visiting PLO Officials

JN3012154792 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1445 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Muscat, 30 Dec (WAKH)—Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, received here today Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, and Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee and Palestinian ambassador to Tunisia. During their meeting, the officials exchanged views on current developments in both the Arab and international arenas. The Palestinian delegation briefed the Omani minister on the latest developments in the Middle East peace process, particularly the Palestinians' negotiations with Israel. They also reviewed the recent Palestinian view on Israel's unjust expulsion of 415 Palestinians to Lebanese territory.

For his part, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs assured the visiting Palestinian delegation of Oman's firm, principled support for the Palestine question and any effort to regain the fraternal Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He also stressed the importance of the continuation of Arab-Israeli peace talks, as well as Palestinian participation in them. He added that through its coercive deportation of Palestinian people, Israel is trying to hamper negotiations, and that we, as Arabs, should deny it such a chance and bypass anything that may hinder the march of peace in the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Greets President Bush on Arrival

LD3112074592 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0715 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 31 Dec 1992, SPA—President George Bush, President of the United States of America, this morning arrived in Riyadh en route to the Republic of Somalia. King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, was at hand to receive Bush at King Khalid International Airport. Also present to welcome Bush was His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, prime minister, and commander of the National Guard. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Excellency President George Bush, President of the United States of America, held a meeting this morning at the airport. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the amir of Riyadh region, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and His Excellency Ibrahim al-'Anqari, the personal adviser of the custodian of the two holy mosques. The meeting was attended on the American side by General Brent Scowcroft, aide to the President for National Security Affairs, David Welsh, the charge d'affaires of the embassy of the United States of America to the Kingdom, and Marlin Fitzwater, aide to the President and the Press Spokesman.

His Excellency President George Bush, President of the United States of America, left Riyadh this morning following his short visit. King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, was at hand to see him off at King Khalid international airport. [passage omitted]

Yemen

'Extremist Fundamentalists' Said Behind Bombings

JN3012124392 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] In Aden, sources said today that Yemeni fundamentalists are behind the bomb attacks that occurred yesterday at two hotels in Aden, south Yemen. At least one person was killed and three others injured in the attacks, according to preliminary reports.

The Yemeni police have arrested two Yemenis who were injured yesterday when a bomb went off while they were preparing to plant it inside the Aden Hotel, where hundreds of U.S. experts and members of the military are staying.

A Yemeni police officer told AFP that extremist fundamentalists are behind the two attacks, adding without further clarification that those terrorists belong to movements hostile to the Arab nation. The Yemeni officer added that these criminal acts aim at disrupting New Year celebrations at hotels in Aden.

It is worth mentioning that Aden is the only Yemeni city in which liquor is sold and consumed.

[Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT on 30 December reports the following:

["Sanaa, 30 Dec (INA)—Yemeni Interior and Security Minister Ghalib Mutahhar al-Ghamish has denied the presence of any armed tribal gatherings at some entrances of the Yemeni capital, Sanaa.

["In statements today, the Yemeni minister asserted that these claims are groundless and aim to create tension and incite citizens to stage strikes, as well as to harm Yemeni unity and stability.

["Al-Ghamish's denial is in reply to reports published recently by some newspapers about tribal gatherings on the outskirts of the capital, Sanaa, especially after the recent riots and acts of violence witnessed in several Yemeni cities."]

Cabinet Discusses Explosions, Other Issues

JN3012174792 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held an ordinary session today under brother Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas. The Council of Ministers discussed a report from the minister of supply and trade on the availability of goods in the country. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers also discussed a preliminary report from the minister of interior and security on the explosions that occurred at the Aden Hotel and (Mihor) Hotel in the economic and trade capital, Aden. The Interior and Security Ministry will also complete their interrogation of those who were detained and will pursue the remaining suspects. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Vice President Arrives, Makes Statement

JN3012175792 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Brother Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council and vice president, arrived in Sanaa this evening on a brotherly visit to the

Republic of Yemen. During the visit, brother Taha Yasin Ramadan will meet with the political leadership and senior state officials.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the Iraqi vice president voiced happiness over his visit to our country, pointing out that he will meet with the political leadership to discuss cooperation between the two fraternal countries and ways of promoting it, the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas, and issues of mutual interest.

Brother Taha Yasin Ramadan praised the true brotherly relations between the Yemeni and Iraqi peoples, wishing them more development in the interest of the two fraternal countries.

He was received at Sanaa's airport by Presidential Council member 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, First Deputy Prime Minister Hasan Makki, a number of Presidential Council members and ministers, and Iraqi Ambassador in Sanaa Muhsin Khalil accompanied by embassy staff.

Envoy Sends Message to UN on 'Missing' Kuwaitis

JN3012123792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] United Nations, 30 Dec (INA)—Iraq has stressed that the issue of the missing Kuwaitis, which is being raised by the regime imposed on Kuwait, was meant to be a means of political blackmail to maintain the economic blockade against Iraq.

In a message to the UN secretary general, Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, said: The best proof of the contradictions in the Kuwaiti authorities' claims are the figures they included in the lists of the names of the missing people which was presented to Iraq through the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. During the period between March 1991 and March 1992, these authorities presented seven different lists.

Nizar Hamdun referred to what was included in the report prepared by a Kuwaiti National Assembly committee on this issue in which it admitted that the Kuwaiti Government's credibility had begun to diminish.

The report said: "Some of those whose names were on the lists of the missing Kuwaitis are now imprisoned in Kuwaiti prisons or were killed in military operations during the Gulf war."

The report said that the Kuwaiti authorities' approach was confused, and sought to exploit the question of the missing people for political purposes, something that destroyed the credibility of this issue in all international forums and at all governmental and nongovernmental levels.

The report called for respecting human rights in Kuwait, pointing out that children under 16 are detained at Talbah school in al-Farwaniyah area, which is one of the deportation centers affiliated with the Interior Ministry.

In his message, Ambassador Nizar Hamdun reiterated Iraq's readiness to cooperate with the United Nations and international organizations in searching for and verifying facts about the missing persons after it had returned the Kuwaitis and citizens of other countries it held through the ICRC.

He stressed that the exposure of the vindictious political objectives on which the allegations of the Kuwaiti rulers were based, and their confusion represented in presenting seven haphazard lists, go a long way toward revealing the truth and opening the way for closing the dossier of Part Z of Security Council Resolution 697, especially since the information has come from Kuwait.

Vice President Leaves For Yemen With Message

JN3012125292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, vice president of the republic and member of the Revolution Command Council and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council in the Republic of Yemen, left for Sanaa today.

In a predeparture statement to INA, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that he is carrying a verbal message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih concerning bilateral relations and current Arab developments, as well as the growing aggression and plots against the nation and the need for joint, effective Arab action to face foreign colonialist conspiracies and attacks.

The vice president of the republic added that Iraq, despite the difficulties it is facing and the ongoing aggression against it, including the continued unjust blockade and attempts to interfere in its domestic affairs, is concerned about pan-Arab issues and dangers and challenges posed to the Arab nation, inspired by the continued instructions of President Saddam Husayn. Iraq also continues its meetings with Arab brothers, officials, and leaders of those who have not fallen into the quagmire of treason, agentry, and subservience, to consult and coordinate with them in an effective and organized manner to stand up to dangers and challenges facing our Arab nation.

Taha Yasin Ramadan emphasized that Arab leaders who bear pan-Arab responsibility honorably and bravely should assume their role and carry out their duties in defending the future and fate of the Arab nation, now that trenches have been sorted out very clearly and it has become clear who are the enemies and agents of the nation and who are its friends and sons. He pointed out that adhering to pan- Arab objectives and defending Arab existence cannot be achieved by slogans and statements but by brave stands and deeds.

The vice president also expressed his confidence and hope that the current and future stages will witness a true pan-Arab awakening that lives up to the level of the strong popular will and the huge energies of the Arab nation. He stressed Iraq's pride in its good relations with its brothers in Arab countries and Iraq's serious, sincere efforts to consolidate and promote these relations in order to bring about a general Arab awakening and strengthen the resolve and capabilities of the Arab nation.

Paper Says Moving of U.S. Carrier 'Misleading'

JN3012120892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has asserted that the Iraqi people's steadfastness and capability will eliminate the new bullshow of U.S. threats.

and that the Iraqi people will continue their course to build Iraq and elevate its status.

In an article today, the paper says that Washington has once again started to play a game of instigation, incitement, and threats in an attempt to legitimize its blatant aggression of shooting down an Iraqi fighter plane over Iraqi national soil. What happened confirms that the U.S. aggressive scheme to encroach on Iraq is continuing.

The paper adds that the Washington media and Arab media have been claiming that Iraq violated the no-fly zone imposed on it in the name of the United Nations. Those who were behind issuing and propagating the no-fly zone resolution are known. The resolution came in response to a U.S. desire, behind which stands the defeated Bush.

The paper explains that the permanent deployment of U.S. forces in Gulf bases practically allows the United States to dispose of additional warships and aircraft carriers. The paper wonders if Washington really needs to mobilize more forces to face any contingency resulting from its ongoing aggression against Iraq.

The paper says that moving the U.S. aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk from the Somali coast to the Arabian Gulf to face so-called contingencies in the wake of the recent aggression against Iraq, is a misleading move aimed at poisoning the atmosphere to cover up the aggressive U.S. aircraft's crime of downing an Iraqi plane in a blatant and brazen violation of the simplest rights of Iraqi sovereignty.

The paper adds that by this deception, Washington is trying to propagate an exposed lie claiming that Iraq, by defending its national sovereignty and working hard to recover, threatens the security of the region, so that the United States can once again use methods to justify maintaining the blockade and stepping up aggression against Iraq and its civilized and human landmarks.

The paper concludes its article by saying that Iraq's determination to pursue the course of the new construction will foil the new aggressive plans, the same way it defeated the plans of the early aggression, and that evil will be defeated and Iraq, its people, and leader struggler Saddam Husayn will remain.

Minister Confers With Australian Trade Official

JN3012160492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA)—Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of health and acting minister of labor and social affairs, met today with Tom Rhine, chairman of the Australian Canned Foods Trade Union [name and title as received], and his delegation.

During the meeting, Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak reviewed the negative impact of the treacherous aggression as well as the immense damage caused by the continued unfair embargo imposed on the Iraqi people, which has created severe shortages of food, medicine, and baby milk.

For his part, Mr. Rhine paid tribute to the Iraqis' steadfastness and courage under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, and their confrontion of the aggressive and conspiratorial schemes carried out against them. He also expressed his admiration for Iraq's reconstruction drive, which is currently in full swing.

During the meeting, which was attended by Fadil Mahmud Gharib, chairman of the General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions, bilateral ties as well as means of enhancing them were discussed.

Kurdish Opposition Movements Announce Merger

PM3012164492 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Dec 92 p 6

[Salwa Ustuwani report: "After Merger of Two Movements in Damascus, Announcement of Formation of New Kurdish-Iraqi Organization"]

[Excerpt] Damascus—The leading committee of the Kurdistan Democratic Union and the "Faili" Kurdish Muslim movement—the word "faili" means courageous or rebellious in Kurdish—have announced the formation of a unified organization called the "Kurdistan Nationalist Union," which includes in its political leadership, in addition to representatives of the two organizations in question, representatives from the Kurdistan Solidarity Movement for al-Failis, which merged earlier with the Faili Kurdish Muslims movement.

Authoritative sources from the two organizations have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that each organization will retain its own organizational structure and is entitled to continue to publish its own newspaper until a general conference is held to agree on the organizational and ideological foundations of the unified organization which will arise from the merger of the organizations expected to join the union in future.

The sources added that the main aims of the union are to coordinate the political and armed struggle to topple Saddam Husayn's regime and build a new regime based on the people's will—a regime that achieves justice and freedom for all Iraqis, while guaranteeing for the Kurdish people their just national rights on all their territory, including tribal areas—and to build the strongest of struggle ties with all Iraqi, pan-Arab, Islamic, and democratic forces and the Kurdistan Front, and to coordinate with them to serve common aims.

The sources pointed out that a meeting will be held in Damascus among representatives of the organizations in question within 45 days to agree on the proportion of each organization's representation in the higher political leadership of the new union. [passage omitted]

Relief Convoys for Kurds Resume With UN Guards

NC3032175492 Paris AFP in English 1714 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 30 (AFP)—Relief convoys for Kurds in northern Iraq have resumed after Iraq agreed to allow UN guards to accompany them, the deputy coordinator of UN activities here said Wednesday.

Colin Mitchell told AFP that four trucks carrying 30 tonnes of corn and 36 tonnes of flour arrived Tuesday in the Kurdish-controlled town of Irbil.

Six UN guards accompanied the convoy which was inspected by Iraqi officials inside Iraqi-controlled territory before continuing on its journey. Another convoy was planned for Wednesday.

On December 19, the United Nations suspended its aid programme to the Kurds following a series of bomb attacks against relief trucks. Two days later Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali decided to send UN guards to accompany the convoys of food and fuel from Turkey.

Iraqi Ambassador Nizar Hamdun had said Sunday that Iraq was prepared to let UN guards accompany the convoys.

An agreement in principle was announced Monday at the United Nations following a week of tense discussions between Iraqi and UN officials.

Baghdad had at first refused to allow the UN protection system, suggesting instead joint inspections at two checkpoints.

UN Official Urges Increased Aid to Kurds

NC3112141892 Paris AFP in English 1337 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Dec 31 (AFP)—The dispatch of relief aid to Kurds in northern Iraq, which resumed on Tuesday after a 10-day break, must be stepped up to avert a humanitarian crisis, a senior UN official said here Thursday.

"If we don't get back to business very quickly we will see dramatic signs of shortages in fuel and basic foods," said Colin Mitchell, deputy coordinator of UN activities. "We are at a critical stage. We really have to get the programmed rolling again," he added.

Two relief convoys transporting wheat and flour arrived Tuesday and Wednesday in the Kurdish-controlled town of Irbil after Iraq agreed to allow UN guards to accompany them, Mitchell said.

He said talks were underway with the Iraqi authorities to resolve a number of pending issues, including ways of guaranteeing the security of the convoys.

"I'm fairly confident that we can come up with a consensus here on these issues and within a few days or so we'll be able to maximise a number of aid trucks." [passage omitted]

Ministry Not To Recognize Kurdish Universities

JN2912133592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Dr. Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq, minister of higher education and scientific research, has asserted that the ministry plans to expand university education to include all governorates of the country in accordance with high academic levels and after making available the necessary academic requirements and resources.

In a statement to INA today, he said that the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research has noticed that elements of the Kurdish parties have all of a sudden announced the establishment of two so-called universities in Dahuk and al-Sulaymaniyah without having the minimum level of academic and teaching requirements, other than a sign bearing the name of the university.

The minister of higher education and scientific research added: We call on our students in the autonomous region not to enroll in these two so-called universities, which were established for propagandistic, demagogic rather than teaching purposes.

Since these two universities will adversely affect scientific progress in the country, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research will not recognize these universities or the degrees given to students who will be forced to attend them.

The minister of higher education and scientific research concluded: Out of the ministry's concern to guarantee the future of students in the autonomous region who are forced to enroll in these two so-called universities, the ministry is willing to admit these students into Iraqi universities and institutes according to their specialties. They should apply for this purpose as soon as possible.

Ships Repaired at Aden, al-'Aqabah, Umm Qasr Ports

JN3012152892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 28 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Iraqi technical cadres have completed repair and maintenance work on 12 Iraqi commercial ships currently moored in several fraternal ports, including the Port of Umm Qasr. The load of these ships ranges between 1,500 tonnes and 12,500 tonnes.

Jasim Muhammad Ibrahim, director general of the State Enterprise for Maritime Transport, has said that specialized shipping technical teams recently returned to Baghdad after completing repair and maintenance work on five Iraqi commercial ships currently moored in fraternal Yemen's port of Aden. These ships are Babil, al-Kindi, al-Farabi, Zanubya, and al-Zawra'. He added that another team completed maintenance work on three other ships in the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah. These

ships, he noted, are al-Ta'awun al-'Arabi [Arab Cooperation], Zayn al-Qaws, and Khawlah Bint-al-Azwar. He maintained that three more ships have been maintained at the Port of Umm Qasr. These ships are Ibn Khaldun, al-Khansa', and al-Bay'ah.

Ibrahim affirmed that a shipping team is currently preparing to leave for Libya to carry out repairs on the ship Balqis. Afterward, the team will head for Mauritania to repair and maintain the ships Baghdad and al-Idrisi.

Authorities Consider Allowing Aid To Deportees

Court Asked for 36-Hour Extension

TA3012165292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] The State Attorney's Office has informed the High Court of Justice that Israel is now holding talks at the government level with the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], as well as other contacts with international bodies regarding the ICRC's appeal to transfer aid to the deportees. The State Attorney's Office asked the High Court of Justice for a 36-hour extension before having to reply in court, so that the discussions at the international level could continue.

Our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem notes that the 72 hours that were allocated to the State Attorney's Office by the High Court, in order to reply to the appeal submitted by attorney 'Imad Dakkur, expired early this afternoon. In his appeal, attorney Dakkur had demanded that the ICRC be permitted to move a convoy through the security zone. Attorney Dakkur accepted the extension request, but demanded the immediate hospitalization of sick deportees in a Marj 'Uyun hospital. Our correspondent adds that in approximately two weeks, the High Court of Justice will discuss in principle the appeal against the legality of the deportations. The appeal will be heard before a special panel of seven justices.

Court Grants Extension

TA3012191892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1940 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Supreme Court President Me'ir Shamgar decided tonight to give Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin another 36 hours to respond to appeals calling on him to permit the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to extend immediate aid to the deportees in Lebanon. Our court affairs correspondent Shlomo Arad reports that in its action, the High Court of Justice accepted the request by the State Attorney's Office to permit the government to continue its contacts with the ICRC and other international bodies over this affair.

Seven High Court justices reconvened today and ruled that the deliberations in principle on the deportation affair will be brought forward to 17 January, when the legality of the expulsion order will be considered.

Peres Given New Proposal on Aid

TA3112040292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] UN envoy James Jonah [as heard] conferred this morning with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and presented to him a new proposal for unilateral Israeli aid to the deportees. Our correspondent Ya'el Ben-Yehuda reports that Jonah said after the meeting that the International Red Cross now awaits Israel's response. He refused to divulge the contents of the proposal.

Red Cross Presses Government

NC3112100092 Paris AFP in English 0922 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, Dec. 31 (AFP)—The Red Cross asked Israel on Thursday to allow aid through to the 415 Palestinian deportees camped in an icy wasteland in south Lebanon regardless of Beirut's stance, officials said.

The new request was made in a meeting between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who opposes the government and favours sending aid, and the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Israel, Reto Meister.

"We asked Israel to make a unilateral humanitarian gesture by letting a Red Cross team through the security zone without taking into account the Lebanese reaction," Meister told AFP.

Israel proposed Tuesday to allow a single Red Cross aid convoy through to the Palestinians, expelled as Islamic fundamentalists on December 17, but only if Lebanon would do the same.

Lebanon has refused and backs Palestinian calls for the exiles, stranded in no-man's land between Israeli and Lebanese lines, to be allowed to return home.

"We have given up the idea of reciprocity following the Lebanese refusal," Meister said. [passage omitted]

10 Deported by Mistake May Return 'at Once'

TA3112091592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has announced that the 10 men deported by mistake may return at once to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and to their place of residence, status, and condition prior to their temporary removal from Israel. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that they will be taken there as soon as they reach one of the terminals along the boundaries of the security zone or any other Israeli border terminal, such as Ben-Gurion Airport. A notice to this effect has been relayed to the International Red Cross.

'More' Said Deported Mistakenly

TA3112115692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] The Israeli watchdog organization for human rights in the territories, Betzelem, says the month of December in Khan Yunus saw some of the most widespread human rights violations since the intifadah began. At a press conference in Jerusalem today, Betzelem members also said Israeli authorities have still not released a list of the Palestinian deportees, for it would expose the mistakes made in the compiling of the lists. Dani Gur-Arye reports:

[Begin recording] [Gur-Arye] Members of Betzelem say the Army's list of deportees was drawn up haphazardly, almost indiscriminately. In addition to the 10 people which Israeli authorities admit were deported by mistake, the group says several had already been tried and convicted for their crimes. Still others appeared on the list and were rounded up but never deported. This is spokesman Yuval 'Inbar.

['Inbar] Now the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has already admitted to 10 mistakes, but we think that even within this big mistake there are many more smaller mistakes. The IDF has claimed that two people that have been convicted and sentenced have been deported; we know of at least five.

[Gur-Arye] Members of Betzelem say several deportees had been in administrative detention prior to their expulsion, and some have actually had their detention commuted. For instance, one Gaza man was picked up at the beginning of this month and given five months of administrative detention. He appealed, and Israeli authorities reduced his term to three weeks. He was due for release today, December 31st, but was among those deported two weeks ago. Another Gaza man, says Betzelem, had served an 11-month prison sentence and was deported a day before he was due to be released.

Betzelem members say the incidents in Khan Yunus following the deportations, incidents in which 11 Palestinians were killed, involved some of the most blatant human rights violations in five years. They said soldiers consistently fired at unarmed Palestinians, without first firing tear gas, rubber bullets, and warning shots. [end recording]

The Army spokesman said in response to Betzelem's charges that soldiers in Khan Yunus opened fire when they felt their lives were endangered. The spokesman said that among the demonstrators in Khan Yunus were armed militants who posed a threat to the troops.

Jonah To Give UN Report on 'Failed' Mission

TA3012193892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] UN special envoy James Jonah is leaving Israel for Egypt tonight on his way to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia where he will tell UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali that his mediation attempts in the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] affair have failed. In private meetings before leaving the country, Jonah said that he would present an objective report to the Security Council and propose to resolve the issue in quiet diplomatic ways. Jonah stressed that his meetings with the families of terror victims from both sides had left a great impression on him.

Peres Comments on Deportees, Peace Process

TA3012213992 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Yoram Ronen and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik on the weekly "Moqed" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Ronen] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is our guest on Moqed tonight. Good evening.

[Peres] Good evening.

[Ronen] Good evening also to our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik. Mr. Peres, with your permission, before we move on to the questions, let us watch one or two European television reports on the deportees affair. These reports still occupy a prominent, and from our point of view unfortunate, place in the world media reports. [passage omitted]

[Ronen] Mr. Peres, such reports, or others similar to them are still seen and heard today, exactly two weeks after the decision on the deportations was made. The question is whether the negative media and public opinion landslide may cause us irreparable damage that could only be reversed by taking action on the ground.

[Peres] There is no doubt that these television reports cause damage to Israel. There is no point in either denying or playing down their negative effects. Nevertheless, Israel will ultimately be judged on the success or failure of the peace process. It should be noted that despite all the protests and declarations, all the partners in the negotiations have announced that they will continue participating in the talks. This is the real and supreme test of Israel's situation.

[Ronen] Do you not feel that these reports or the kind of public opinion which is building up not only in the media but also among politicians around the world is causing us damage that will eventually prove almost impossible to rectify?

[Peres] I said it is causing us damage but one must compare the two kinds of possible damage. In other words, what would have happened had we done nothing against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Hamas, after all, also damaged the peace process. Hamas put the future of the process in jeopardy, threatened those who were willing to negotiate, murdered innocent people, and sought to kill not only Jews but also Arabs. We did not carry out this step in order to appear on television. We did it to terminate a real threat and to stop people getting murdered.

[Sukenik] We will discuss the practical results later. Right now we have a very difficult public relations problem which we have already discussed. Do you not think that there is room for some kind of humanitarian initiative on Israel's part to improve our international image? After all, this can go on forever, with television footage and apologies every day.

[Peres] Look, as we are speaking here now, the situation is this: Both the Americans and the United Nations have appealed to Lebanon and to Israel and proposed that both countries separately but simultaneously allow a convoy of food and drugs to get through. Israel announced that if Lebanon agreed so would we.

[Sukenik] To let only doctors through?

[Peres] To let doctors...this does not matter. Again, right now the important thing is to make a gesture. No one has claimed that Israel must do everything on its own. In my opinion, we should not absolve the Lebanese of their responsibility. To a very large extent, Lebanon today is the one keeping the deportees concentrated in one place.

[Sukenik] Their responsibility for what? People we dumped in their territory?

[Peres] It is not responsible for us having dumped them in its territory. People normally enjoy freedom of movement in Lebanon. They should have been permitted to move freely. [changes thought] Many of them have Jordanian passports. And this was always the case in the past. This is the first time that the Lebanese surrounded the deportees in one place and denied them the freedom of movement that everyone else in Lebanon has.

[Ronen] But what would have happened, Mr. Peres, if we made a unilateral, one-time gesture and extended humanitarian aid regardless of what was happening in Lebanon? We would have scored many public opinion points and improved our image in the media.

[Peres] We definitely would have scored many points. Those who were opposed to it believe....

[Ronen, interrupting] Not you?

[Peres] It is no secret that I was in the cabinet minority on this occasion. However, I can certainly understand the majority's position and as a member of a cabinet I am also obliged to defend it. Their position [during the 25 December cabinet session that decided not to allow the International Red Cross through to the deportees] was based on two rationales: One, that the full responsibility for the deportees would be placed on Israel. That would have left Israel and the deportees without any other alternatives. Second, the message would have lost some of its force. After all, this deportation carried a message. Israel told a part of the Palestinian people—the Hamas—that things had gone far enough. Clearly, the element of force played a very important role in this action. There is no doubt about that. I consider it quite likely that Lebanon will be forced to change its position if this affair goes on for another day or two.

[Ronen] Mr. Peres, the decision on the deportations was made while you were in Japan. When you returned to Israel several days later, you said one could not turn the clock back and claimed that you did not know how you would have voted. Now, two weeks later, you must have a clearer picture. Perhaps the decision itself was right but its implementation was bungled. You probably heard Justice Minister Libai yesterday in the Knesset, saying that he had learned of the decision only 10 minutes before it was adopted. There must have been numerous foul-ups that undermined the decision's effectiveness.

[Peres] First, I have to reiterate what I said before. As a cabinet member I bear full responsibility for the government's decisions, whether they were adopted when I was present or not. I do not want to play down my shared responsibility. The cabinet clearly wanted to carry out an impressive operation soon after the incidents which had taken place: [murder of border policeman]. Whenever one seeks to carry out a large-scale action, immediately after another incident, there is a possibility of foul-ups. Obviously there were some errors.

[Ronen] Some of which may have been preventable had things been considered more carefully?

[Peres] Look, part of the careful considerations called for rapid action. That was also carefully considered and it is sometimes necessary.

[Sukenik] Did that for example justify the fact that you were not consulted? I believe you will find it a bit difficult to deny now that you were not very happy with the fact that the Foreign Ministry was not in the picture.

[Peres] Gadi, you will not find anything here, so leave it alone and look for something else.

[Sukenik] Are you sure?

[Peres] One hundred percent. I will not hide the fact that there are disagreements in the government. I would be ashamed to belong to a government that had only one opinion. That would not be a democratic government.

[Sukenik, interrupting] Does that mean that you might have expressed a different opinion on that day had you been asked?

[Peres] I expressed a different opinion and I do not think that cabinet members should be yes men. What you are constantly trying to do—and I shall not allow it—is to portray differences of opinion over a specific matter as personal rivalry with roots in the past. I will not lend my hand to this, and that is why I said that you will not find any story here.

[Sukenik] But this is a very important matter. Let us put the personal rivalry aside and discuss the issue itself. Two weeks have passed which give us some perspective on the deportation decision. If you had been in the country and consulted on the matter, which might have been the case had you been here, would you have perhaps acted differently?

[Peres] I refuse to answer this question because I have no way of objectively judging this. I cannot go back in time with the benefit of hindsight. I will not do this.

[Ronen] But in the last cabinet session on 25 December, Mr. Peres, you led the opposition to Mr. Rabin's position. You say it is not personal rivalry, and this is legitimate. Nevertheless, the impression is that you are trying to smooth over or hide your differences, and even to swallow bitter pills just to prevent the Peres-Rabin rivalry from resurfacing.

[Peres] I am not smoothing anything over, nor swallowing bitter pills. I am dealing with issues that must be separated from personal rivalry. I am convinced deep in my heart that if and when an element of personal rivalry is allowed to edge into differences of opinion, both the disagreements as well as the actual issues themselves are completely forgotten. That is why I am so careful, and consciously...[changes thought]. Look, this is how I see the picture. In 1992 there was a political turnaround in Israel. A new government was established with a mandate to move toward peace. It has definitely used this mandate in an important manner. It has publicly changed its position regarding the Golan Heights: We said that there is room for a territorial compromise on the Golan Heights. It has changed its positions on the autonomy negotiations: We said that we were in favor of political and not merely municipal elections. We said that we were in favor of a mixed model which included functional [previous word in English] elements; or in other words, administrative authorities and elements of let us say land and water. We will continue the negotiations. We have a real problem regarding what to do when there is an organization on the other side threatening the peace process with armed violence, while the majority is incapable of implementing its will. We have a real problem. Why run away from reality? Now, I am convinced that in 1993, the second test will begin. Not a test of the change in Israel but rather the change that must take place in the Middle East. This change will force us to make tough decisions, but with important results. It will also force the Arab side to make tough decisions. Nothing can happen here without difficult decisions. I refuse to surrender to some marginal body, or hint, or signal—this is not important. In my opinion, 1993 will be the decisive year in the future of the Middle East, and the decisive year for peace in the region.

[Sukenik] Were there instances in recent months where for the sake of those major decisions and in order to maintain government harmony—that is, to prevent an issue becoming an internal government dispute—you sometimes toned the line, or kept mum. Today, for instance, you are speaking with a lot more excitement in explaining the deportation decision than you did in the first days after your return to Israel when you avoided making such a response.

[Peres] I must defend the government position. That is my job as foreign minister and that is the right parliamentary and cabinet game. If you have a different view, you express it in the cabinet, neither before nor after, you accept the majority's decision, and you do your job. In many cases, I go to the prime minister directly and argue with him, and he argues with me. That is a natural act. The cabinet also searches for consensus. A democratic government looks for agreement, a dialogue. We are not playing in a drama or a tragedy. We have to run things as adult and responsible people. Issues must be considered from various angles. There is also ministerial distribution, with each minister looking at the issue from his viewpoint. It is my job to judge each situation as foreign minister, just as somebody else has to look at it as either finance minister or defense minister.

[Sukenik] So, with your permission, I will give you an opportunity to defend the cabinet decision. You were in a minority, you supported giving the International Red Cross [IRC] permission to cross from Israel with aid for the deportees, but Rabin rallied a majority which opposed the move. Such a move is now being permitted—not quite yet because the condition is that Lebanon also agrees to it—but there has been a pullback. The question is whether there is withdrawal to a new path due to pressure either from the High Court of Justice, or internationally, or the Security Council. Perhaps we will go one step further and let wither away the government decision, the one you opposed.

[Peres] First, we have to differentiate between all those factors. The government has declared that any ruling by the High Court will be honored whether we like it or not. We said we will negotiate with the IRC and the United Nations. We do not want to negotiate with each country separately. We are looking for a way to do that. We did not dispatch the expellees to starve or to be endangered. The punishment itself, although large in scope, is limited in time, only for a maximum period of up to two years, from nine months to two years. In other words, it is not some rigorous punishment, but restricted in content and time.

[Sukenik] But there was a decision not to permit aid, and now we are ready to do so.

[Peres] The decision to permit the transfer of aid still depends on a Lebanese agreement to do the same simultaneously rather than trying to keep the political ball in Israel's court.

[Ronen] Mr. Peres, the meager majority in the Friday cabinet meeting in which the prime minister won by two votes aroused once again those who call for bringing in Tzomet and the National Religious Party [NRP] into the coalition. Are you in favor?

[Peres] We have to be frank with Tzomet and the NRP. Tzomet opposed the autonomy, it opposes a compromise on the Golan Heights. If Tzomet agrees to both of the above, I am not opposed. I am not opposed to parties. I am in favor of clear political lines. Since I believe that 1993 will be a decisive year, we must tell the potential partners what is up for a decision and what the government public position so far is on the two main issues: autonomy and the Golan Heights.

[Sukenik] I would therefore like to understand, are you now in favor of contacts with Tzomet and the NRP or do you not see any point to such contacts?

[Peres] I said, if Tzomet and the NRP agree to the two things I referred to, then my decision is affirmative. I say they will not agree.

[Ronen] Do you accept the Meretz ultimatum that says that if Tzomet or the NRP join the coalition they are leaving?

[Peres] Meretz was given a veto power. We must take that into account. If we signed something it binds us.

[Sukenik] But the discussions with Tzomet and the NRP are due to one main reason—at least, that has been claimed, and it is reasonable: The prime minister currently does not have what we can call a relatively hawkish majority in the government. You are among the leading, if not the leading, relatively dovish line compared to the recent decisions by the prime minister.

[Peres] I am not leading a dovish line and I do not know what a hawkish line is. We are leading a line of achieving peace. We are all interested in having a maximum number of Knesset members [MK's] in favor of that line. I do not suggest changing the line in order to expand the number of supporters, but I do agree to expand the number of supporters within the line as it is. These things are very clear.

[Ronen] Mr. Peres, you say you are not leading a dovish or hawkish line. I do not know whether you lead a certain line on talks with the Palestinians and the PLO, but I believe you introduced some innovation in recent interviews. I quote from a recent interview: We have to hold talks with any Palestinian and any Palestinian organization which expresses a readiness to make peace with us.

The question is whether a Palestinian organization can be the PLO?

[Peres] Does the PLO currently support the peace agreement? The PLO is currently doing two or three things which are contrary to peace. First, it still participates in acts of violence and terrorism. The PLO and Fatah are involved directly, to my regret, in acts of violence. Second, the PLO has not given its agreement to a two-stage arrangement, with the first stage leaving the character of the second stage—the permanent solution—open. It tries to convert the first stage into a stage of establishing a Palestinian state or a stage of a commitment to the establishment of a Palestinian state. That is basically the main difficulty in the negotiations.

We must once and for all leave slogans aside and talk straight. What is our real difficulty? To negotiate with the Palestinians, because on the one hand, the Palestinians do not have a state which can impose its wishes on the inhabitants of the territories, while on the other, it does not have a democratic system in which the majority decides for all the participants to the negotiations. There is a danger that an armed minority can murder the will of the majority that wants peace. We must ask ourselves how we can achieve it. There are those who say, why do you not talk with 'Arafat, why do you not talk with the PLO. I want to tell you straight away. Each Palestinian, PLO or not PLO, can ask for a Palestinian state and want whatever he wants on two conditions: That he does not use arms and that he respects the decision of the majority. What is this government in fact saying today about the PLO and all the other issues? First, it tells the Palestinian delegation: Go and consult with whomever you want. We are not shutting our eyes, we are not describing some imaginary situation. There is definitely a partnership between the delegation from the territories and the PLO leadership in Tunisia. We are aware of that. The Likud tried to deny it, we are not denying it. I say, why are we asked to recognize somebody or appoint somebody. We say, contrary to the previous government, go ahead and elect your leadership in political and not municipal elections. We will sit and negotiate with whoever you elect whatever his view is. By the way, I take into account that if there are elections many extremist representatives will be elected.

[Ronen] We can assume they will elect the PLO.

[Peres] That could very likely happen.

[Sukenik] Will you sit down and talk with them?

[Peres] I will certainly sit with them because whoever is elected plays according to different rules than those who shoot.

[Sukenik] That is the first time you say that under such terms you will sit with 'Arafat or any other PLO leader.

[Peres] I do not know if 'Arafat has the right to vote. 'Arafat represents...

[Sukenik, interrupting] You said they can elect whoever they wish.

[Peres] Whomever they wish from among the inhabitants of the territories, not from the diaspora, that is clear.

[Sukenik] So we are again dictating to them whom to vote for.

[Peres] Look, those who live here, live here, those who do not, do not live here. I say that I will sit down with whoever is elected from the territories, no matter who it is. It does not matter to me. I say that I even take into account that there will be extremist rhetoric, even if it is similar to that of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

[Ronen] Hamas can also be elected.

[Peres] That is right, but once elected it cannot come with revolvers to the negotiating table, it cannot shoot. In elections there is always a difference between candidates and those elected. Candidates use a certain language in order to be elected and those who are elected adopt a certain language to implement an acceptable policy.

[Sukenik] There was a poll conducted by Qol Yisra'el's Hayim Hecht this week among Labor MK's, which found that 30 of the 44 MK's, if I am not mistaken, support open and direct negotiations with the PLO. Do you not think that the time has come to bring the issue to Labor institutions in order to change the situation?

[Peres] I tell you, first we have to give them the elections option. That is supported by all, without exception, the majority and the minority. Almost all of Labor, and all the MK's, to the best of my knowledge, say that the best option for the Palestinians and for us is to reach free elections in the territories within two, three, or four months. Do not shirk the issue now. We have to provide an answer on how to form not only a delegation to negotiations, but also a side with which we can make decisions in the negotiations.

[Sukenik] But most Labor MK's believe that those negotiations will be much easier if we declare an agreement to talk with the PLO.

[Peres] It is possible they are mistaken because even if we say that 'Arafat can participate in the negotiations, what guarantee is there that the inhabitants of the territories will accept it. There was an attempt to assassinate Faysal al-Husayni. Tomorrow they can murder somebody else. The problem facing the State of Israel is not only how to prevent violence among the inhabitants of this country, but also how to prevent violence outside the borders of the state, inside the territories themselves. No less, and perhaps even more, Palestinians are killed by other Palestinians than those killed in confrontations with us. We are constantly running away from the main issue. There is a Palestinian camp. The simple question is under what rules it operates, guns or a majority, those who shoot or those who haggle in negotiations. To my regret, we have a role to defend the right of the Palestinians to chose their path according to the majority and not according to a threat.

[Ronen] You recalled Faysal al-Husayni, and in interviews last week you said you did not have reservations about meeting with him. Why not initiate a meeting with him even here in Jerusalem? I assume that is not wrong in your eyes.

[Peres] First, I have already met with al-Husayni in the past.

[Ronen] Not as foreign minister.

[Peres] No, but in other posts, it does not matter. I will meet with him in the future as well. That is not the issue. The issue on the agenda is not whether we talk with al-Husayni or not. It is whether the composition of the Palestinian delegation is changed or not. There is an agreed-upon composition, so instead of negotiating the contents now, there are those who want to restart negotiations on the composition. I say, that is a mistake. The composition should be improved, but through elections and not personnel changes. Today, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi is heading the Palestinian delegation, and he does not have a completely rosy past either. What did the Likud agree to? We know exactly what positions 'Abd-al-Shafi held. One cannot always...

[Ronen, interrupting] You do not see any difference between al-Husayni and 'Abd-al-Shafi?

[Peres] There is no difference between them. There is a problem that has not yet been resolved and that is what will be the fate of the Palestinians from East Jerusalem. I do not want to avoid the truth here. No decision has been reached yet about whether they will vote, where they will vote, or whether they will only be allowed to vote or also to be elected. This is a question which definitely features on the agenda.

[Sukenik] So as far as you are concerned, judging from what you said about Faysal al-Husayni, East Jerusalem residents can be included inside?

[Peres] Look Gadi, I will not express my personal positions during the negotiations. When this is raised at the negotiating table I will state my position as to how the Palestinian citizens of Jordan living in Jerusalem should be treated.

[Sukenik] But you are not ruling it out now, at any rate?

[Peres] I will not voice my opinion now. Look, there is a problem here. Negotiations are underway, when suddenly an Israeli minister appears and states positions that the cabinet has not decided upon yet. I will not do this. I will only reiterate that the problem is not a personal one, but the composition of the delegation. Today, there is a composition agreed upon by Israel, the Palestinians, the PLO, the Arab states, the Americans—by everyone. It is considered a legitimate delegation. I regard the problem as what will happen tomorrow if bullets start flying against this delegation's wishes or actually at the delegation itself. I say let us wait a minute and create a situation that what is agreed upon will represent a compelling majority.

[Ronen] We have spoken a lot about the negotiations with the Palestinians and about how the talks are stuck or only making slow progress. Do you believe that right now the talks with Syria offer a greater chance for a breakthrough in the foreseeable future; a breakthrough that will require us to make territorial concessions on the Golan Heights.

[Peres] I am very happy that you asked that question, Yoram. I think we are all making an intellectual mistake by being obsessed with the price of peace while virtually ignoring its results. I believe that the price of peace is almost a given. You will pay the same price for a good peace or a bad peace. What we should pay attention to today is the characteristics of that peace, its benefits, and its nature. I want peace with all the Arab countries without exception. I think that we should exploit this remaining chance and close all our historic accounts so

that we can devote the necessary attention and energy to create a new Middle East. As opposed to the past, I do not see...

[Rosen, interrupting] But you are not ignoring the price?

[Peres] The price will be the same in any case, that is what I am saying. We are arguing the price for nothing, the price is a given. The result is what we should haggle over. I tell you that today no country can offer an exclusively national solution, neither for its security nor for its economic problems. A regional solution is required and this is not just some vision. You need a solution not only for artillery and tanks but also for missiles with nonconventional warheads.

[Sukenik] But Mr. Peres, we are just treading water in the meantime. For the past few months, we have made no progress and there are already fears that you moved half way toward the Arabs but received nothing in return. Perhaps you are squandering the inheritance left by the Likud in the form of the peace process?

[Peres] No, we are not treading water. There has definitely been progress. We have begun discussions on what is called a mixed model in the negotiations with the Palestinians, and contrary to the glum faces they show to the media, we have reason to believe that the Palestinians themselves believe that significant progress has been made. Even with the Syrians, if you notice the public rhetoric, there has been some thaw, some progress—perhaps I would have wanted there to be more—but we are not stuck in the mud and we are making constant progress. The interesting fact is that this is the first time that both the Arabs and the Palestinians realize that they cannot run away from the peace process. They are not doing us any favors. The PLO or the Palestinians cannot reach an agreement even when meeting Hamas like they did today. Why? Is this because they love us? That is not what I said. It is because they know that they have no alternative—not Syria, not the PLO, the Palestinians, or Jordan. That is the real power of the matter: They cannot evade the peace process because none of them have any alternative except perhaps to go crazy and start shooting each other.

[Rosen] We have to end things here, Mr. Foreign Minister, good night and thank you.

Mubarak Sends Message to Rabin on Deportees

TA3012175492 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak sent Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin a message this evening on the deportees. The message was delivered by Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni. Our political affairs correspondent Shlomo Gonor reports that the prime minister briefed Ambassador Basyuni about the results of the contacts held with the UN envoy and about the latest developments on the issue of the deportees.

Our correspondent adds that Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Yossi Beilin will leave for Cairo at the beginning of next week to meet with Egyptian officials as part of the periodic meetings between the two countries.

ADP To Support Government Despite Deportations

TA3012194892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah said today that his faction, the Arab Democratic Party, would continue to support the government despite the deportation of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. MK Darawshah was speaking following a meeting between a delegation of Israeli Arabs and UN envoy James Jonah. The purpose of the meeting was to pressure Israel to return the deportees.

Rabin Accepts 242, 338 in Return for Peace

TA3012202992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that he is the first Israeli prime minister to clearly state that he would be willing to accept Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 in return for peace with Syria.

Our correspondent Shuli Yehimovich reports that speaking to the Labor party Young Guard in Tel Aviv, the prime minister twice stressed that he was talking about the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from certain areas.

In response to Likud Knesset Member Binyamin Netanyahu's assertion that he had understood from the chief of staff that the IDF had plans for withdrawal from the Golan Heights, Rabin said that he did not have time to comment on every piece of nonsense. He added that he had not given up on the idea of expanding the coalition in the long run, provided the government's basic guidelines were not affected.

Authorities Impose 'Fatah Day' Curfew in Gaza

TA3012165092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] A curfew has been imposed on all of the Gaza Strip and will remain in force until 3 January. A military source told correspondent Moti Amir that the curfew is meant to prevent disturbances in the Gaza Strip on Fatah Day, which is marked on 1 January. The security forces have also arrested several Fatah activists to prevent any excitement.

Deportees Said To Reject 'French Proposal'

NC3112112692 Paris AFP in English 1057 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Marj al-Zuhur, Lebanon, Dec 31 (AFP)—More than 400 stranded Palestinian deportees on Thursday rejected a French proposal that they be put under the control of UN peacekeepers in south Lebanon.

Deportee spokesman 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi said the French proposal "isn't very clear" and that the only solution was application of UN Security Council Resolution 799 demanding their return.

Al-Rantisi, a member of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, said "we will stay here until Israel gives in to international law."

The deportees—415 according to Israel, 413 by their own count —were expelled on December 17 and have been trapped in freezing weather between Israeli and Lebanese lines in south Lebanon ever since.

Israel, which says they are members of the radical Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements, has refused to allow their return. And both Israel and Lebanon have refused to allow relief supplies through to their makeshift camp.

Shaykh 'Abdallah Shami, an Islamic Jihad spokesman, said the deportees rejected "any plan that does not guarantee our return."

Shami, who says he represents 50 Islamic Jihad members among the deportees, said "compromise proposals are only aimed at getting Israel off the hook."

"We shall stay here until we return, or we shall die here so that the world can witness the atrociousness of Israel's crimes."

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas proposed in Geneva on Wednesday that the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) take temporary care of the deportees until a solution was found.

Dumas said UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali had found the idea "interesting" and that Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir 'Arafat also favored it.

With little prospect of an end to their ordeal, the deportees held another fast day on Thursday to preserve their food stocks.

They also read out a New Year's message address to Christians around the world, asking them "on this holiday, not to forget us, nor that we have wives and children who need us."

Al-Hariri Departs for Damascus 30 Dec

NC3012183092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left for Damascus today.

He said that the Army's deployment in the southern suburb is just a normal operation because the Army enters all areas within the context of extending the state's authority over all Lebanese territories.

Al-Hariri Returns, Comments

NC3012204292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut from Damascus this evening. During the visit, he extended condolences to Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam on the death of his sister and met with a number of Syrian officials.

In Damascus, al-Hariri said the visit primarily aimed at consoling Mr. Khaddam. He added: I took the opportunity to discuss with him and other senior officials the latest developments in the fraternal Syrian-Lebanese relations as well as regional developments, especially Israel's deportation of 400 Palestinians from their homeland and its refusal to allow food and medicine to get through to them.

He said he took advantage of his presence in Damascus to repeat his thanks for the valuable assistance provided by the fraternal Syrian Arab forces in Lebanon to implement the Lebanese Government's decisions, steps, and measures aimed at ensuring security throughout Lebanon and establishing legitimate authority on all Lebanese soil.

Answering journalists questions, al-Hariri stressed the need to strengthen bonds of fraternal cooperation between Syria and Lebanon in all fields and to continue and activate coordination and consultations among the Arab parties concerned with the peace process to serve their common cause.

Iranian Envoy Expresses Support for Government

NC3112080092 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Homayun 'Alizadeh, Iranian charge d'affaires in Beirut, has expressed Iran's support for Lebanon's stand on the deportees issue. He denounced the pressure being put on Lebanon to go on back on its decision to refuse to receive the deportees.

Following his meeting with Minister of Labor 'Abdallah al-Amin yesterday, 'Alizadeh said Israel is responsible for the fate of the deportees and must shoulder its responsibility in this connection.

10 Houses Damaged in Israeli Shelling of South

NC3012174192 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Our correspondent in the south cites internal security sources as saying that the villages of Bra'shit, 'Ayta al-Jabal, Tibnin, and the outskirts of Kafra and Yatar have been under artillery fire from Israeli positions overlooking these areas since before 1630 today.

Our correspondent also reports that the towns of Jbu' and 'Ayn Bu Siwar in Iqlim al-Tuffah have come under Israeli artillery shelling. At 1500, the shelling extended to the eastern hills of Kafr Rummun, where 10 houses were hit.

15 Arrested for Occupying Firm, Attacking Guards

NC3112094792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] A security source has stated that 15 armed men led by Tony Hector Franjiyah forced their way into the Lime and Gypsum Company in Shikka at 0645 today, attacked the company guards, and detained employees. A Lebanese Army force immediately proceeded to the area, surrounded the site, arrested all the perpetrators—including the leader—and freed the detained employees. The perpetrators were referred to the pertinent judicial authorities.

Israeli Officers Attend SLA Graduation Ceremony

NC3012221592 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1430 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Uri Lubrani, Israeli Government coordinator of Lebanese affairs, has expressed the hope that the issue of the deportees will not affect the peace process in the Middle East, adding: We must work for the continuation of this process.

Responding to a question by correspondents about the deportees, Lubrani said: I cannot add anything to what the Israeli Government's official spokesman has said.

Lubrani spoke to reporters on the sidelines of the ceremony for the graduation of 30 South Lebanese Army [SLA] platoon commanders at the educational institute in al-Majidiyah this morning. The ceremony was attended by General Gabi Ashkenazi, commander of the Israeli liaison unit; Colonel Shlomo Hasson, head of civilian affairs; Lieutenant Colonel Karamallah Sa'id, SLA chief of staff; and a large number of Israeli Army and SLA officers.

Lubrani and Gen. Ashkenazi then went to the house of SLA Commander Gen. Lahd to extend to him holiday greetings.

Al-Shar': Deportations Aim To Blow Up Talks

JN2512145092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has affirmed that Israel is threatening the peace process and is responsible for the serious situation resulting from the mass deportation of Palestinian citizens.

In a radio statement in Cairo yesterday, al-Shar' added: Proceeding from our convictions as Arab parties who would like to see peace achieved, we think that Israel's mass expulsion of Palestinians is aimed at blowing up the peace process.

Al-Shar' stressed that the Security Council should bear its responsibility for implementing Resolution 799 adopted last week concerning the Palestinians deported from their homeland. [passage omitted]

Deportees Determined To Remain, Praise al-Asad

JN2712113292 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0910 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] Damascus, 27 Dec (SANA)—The Palestinian deportees have affirmed their adherence to their cause with unwavering determination and indomitable spirit so as to confront the Israeli occupation and Israel's arbitrary measures despite their harsh and critical conditions at the "al-Zuhur" camp in southern Lebanon.

In a statement to the TISHRIN newspaper mission published today, the official spokesman of the deportees Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi said that the situation in the camp has become critical, now that the injured deportees have returned to the camp and the conditions of the sick men have deteriorated in the absence of medical attention. He said that this cannot be tolerated and voices must be raised. He added that this was an operation of deportation and killing, a process of slow death in circumstances which Israel has intentionally chosen.

Al-Rantisi described the conditions of the camp in terms of food, water, and heating. He said food had run out and there was only some potatoes which might last for two days. Potable water has been nonexistent for four days and there is no heating in this very cold weather, he added.

Al-Rantisi thanked Syria for its stand and said: Syria is our country and homeland.

Al-Rantisi said: I tell Rabin: We will not go and will remain here until we expose and unmask him completely in front of the world. We will remain here until we return to our homes.

Shaykh Abu-'Abdallah said that despite their suffering, the deportees have set their hearts, eyes, and minds on their land and people and Israel's decisions and arbitrary measures will not weaken their will and steadfastness.

Abu-'Abdallah said: From here, from Marj al-Zuhur [placename as received], we send greetings of love and appreciation for Syria because of its support for our demands to return. We look at President Hafiz al-Asad with love and respect, and appreciate Syria's role, struggle, and sacrifices for the sake of Palestine and its people. We value Syria's firm support for all the noble struggles in the occupied Arab territory and its decisive and firm stands at the peace talks because it demands the return of all the land with no concessions or separate solutions.

Shaykh Abu-'Abdallah added: We are proud of Syria because it works for the sake of all the Arabs and has been and will always remain a beacon of light, and also because President Hafiz al-Asad is the historic leader at this difficult phase in the Arab nation's history. He is the only one protecting and preserving the rights and heritage of the entire Arab nation.

Qaddurah Returns From APU Meeting

JN3012182492 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1720 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Damascus, 30 Dec (SANA)—A People's Assembly delegation headed by Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah returned to Damascus from Amman today after taking part in the extraordinary session of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU]. The session was entitled: "The Arab parliamentarians' role in supporting the deported brothers in the Lebanese territories and in confirming solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people." [passage omitted]

Press Holds Israel Responsible for Deportees

JN3012095692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Press review]

[Text] In a comment today, TISHRIN says: Israel has once again started to play its well-known tune by covering up its refusal to implement Security Council Resolution 799 by maneuvering, trickery, and deception.

The paper adds: Israel once again reveals that it will not return the Palestinian deportees to their homeland and will not accept international appeals for it to extend humanitarian aid to those deportees. Israel publicly acknowledges its isolation and the exposure of its stands and policies in the international arena. It tries to deceive others, shows a stubborn attitude, pursues its recalcitrant policies, and works to make Lebanon bear the brunt, after it has become clear that its aggression against the Palestinian deportees has targeted Lebanon, as well as international legitimacy and human laws and charters. This aggression, moreover, dealt a blow to the peace process.

TISHRIN adds: Israeli intransigence and the attempts to cover up this intransigence reveal beyond doubt that the

Rabin government has lost its balance and is facing a serious crisis. This is seen in its overall reactions to the world, which has strongly denounced its practices in the occupied territories, as well as leaving the deportees in the open with little food, struggling on arid valleys.

The paper adds: Israel has rejected all appeals calling on it to stop its savage crime by refraining from these flagrant aggressive practices. In addition to the fact that the Rabin government has scorned, and turned its back on, international legitimacy and justice, it is also scorning those who hold it responsible for what it has deliberately done to the Palestinian deportees. Israel also says that Lebanon is to blame because it has adopted a stance dictated by its will, circumstances, and its Arab decision not to allow Israel to pursue its hellish schemes and continue its policy of deporting Arab citizens from their territories.

Lebanon, the papers says, is not a substitute land to protect the Israeli occupation from the intifadah. Lebanon has also become capable of facing Israeli schemes. It will not accept making its territory a passageway or headquarters for the strategy of aggression and its expansionist plans.

The paper asserts that Israel should not link itself with Lebanon, nor set conditions for it. It is absolutely unreasonable to accept these conditions, even if they are within the framework of humanitarian and medical aid to the deportees, because Israel alone is responsible for the consequences of deporting hundreds of Palestinian citizens. Israel alone was sharply criticized by the Security Council and other international organizations, and its reckless, savage policy was condemned. Israel alone, therefore, is responsible for putting an end to the suffering of the deportees by returning them to their territories and saving them from their current situation. The whole world has attested to this fact, and the Israeli methods of deception no longer fool anyone, especially as the Rabin government discovered that it deported 10 people by mistake. Israel has publicly acknowledged this. Israel has thus placed the noose around its neck and made a public declaration about its flagrant violation of international law and human rights. Israel alone is concerned with not only correcting the mistake which it admitted, but with removing the traces of its crime, which is a true manifestation of its occupation of Arab territory, whether in terms of its terrorist, racist practices or of deporting and expelling Palestinians from their territory and putting them in the occupation prisons.

On the same issue, AL-THAWRAH says: The crisis of the Palestinian deportees has entered its 130th day without any hope of a quick solution to put an end to the suffering of the deportees who are facing very harsh and inhuman conditions.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that Israel has spurned the Security Council resolution that stipulates the immediate return of the deportees to their homeland, and ignored the world condemnation and its successive resolutions. Moreover, Israel has made the mission of James Jonah, envoy of the UN secretary general—a mission aimed at providing humanitarian aid to hundreds of deportees and enforcing Resolution 799—a very tough mission, and his efforts useless.

The paper says that Israel and the Rabin government have passed the death sentence against the Palestinian deportees. By defying the resolutions of international legitimacy, stepping up violence and terrorism against the masses of the occupied territories, giving their soldiers a free hand to slaughter the intifadah and kill its children, and enforcing coercive mass deportation of the Palestinian people, the Israelis reinforce a constant approach and an aggressive policy that has left millions of the sons of the Arab people homeless. This policy has also been the reason for all the setbacks and aggressive wars and expansion witnessed in the region.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH says: Any relaxation toward enforcing the recent resolution related to the deportees and their return will cause grave consequences and cast more doubts on the international community and its credibility regarding the implementation of its resolutions. Israel's success in escaping Resolution 799 will make it more rebellious and more aggressive and dangerous to peace and the future of humanity.

Under the headline "Fait Accompli Policy Is Rejected," AL-BA'TH says: Israel might entertain the illusion that the case of the deportees will continue like this indefinitely. It also might deliberately seek to maintain this status quo, in line with its racist policy and attempts to impose a fait accompli and rebel against international legitimacy.

The paper adds: The area in which Israel always miscalculates is that its racist, terrorist practices against the Palestinian people are exposed and rejected on the human and political levels.

The crime of mass deportation, AL-BA'TH asserts, has not achieved any gains. On the contrary, our kinfolk in the occupied territories have asserted that the attempt to uproot them from their homeland has hardened them and enhanced their ongoing legitimate struggle against the most hideous and fierce form of colonialism.

AL-BA'TH adds: The international efforts represented in the mission of the UN envoy and his efforts to extend humanitarian aid to the deportees are still obstructed by a criminal's extravagance and determination to pursue his crime.

AL-BA'TH concludes: This rejection of international efforts can never last long, for there is nothing that prevents the Security Council from taking practical steps to force Israel to implement Resolution 779 and remove the injustice done to the deportees. The international community, which has made a unanimous resolution, is capable of enforcing this resolution if the Israeli rejection of it continues, and this is what should actually happen.

Israel Decision Termed 'Crazy'

JN3012163392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Amid international condemnation and denunciation of the foolish Israeli decision to deport Palestinians, Israel finds itself in front of a clear fact: It is a terrorist country which pays no heed to international law and is not committed to any principles of human rights. The rulers of Israel find themselves facing the ultimate definition they have given themselves—tyrants with inclinations toward aggression and racism, who are only in harmony with the language of war and destruction and who only believe in the law of the jungle as a rule for their fierce and aggressive offensive.

Because of all this, Israel did not study or evaluate the deportation decision before making it. The consequences of this decision were not taken into consideration, as the decisions of civilized nations concerned with just security and peace must be considered. Indeed, it was a crazy decision made by those who not only deny any commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy, but who also bear a grudge against peace that is unparalleled by any other.

Hence, after finding itself in the face of other consequences that do not match its lowest expectations of what would result from the deportation decision, Tel Aviv began issuing a series of statements. These statements can only be understood on the basis that Israel's leaders committed a serious mistake when they imagined that deporting Palestinians from their homes could continue forever; that the world would remain forever silent over this foolish Israeli policy; and that the Arabs would assist Israel in implementing its decision by taking in the Palestinian deportees. However, the world did not remain silent this time. It took the initiative by adopting a clear UN resolution, thereby canceling Israel's decision. Moreover, Lebanon did not respond and refused to open its borders to the deportees, despite all the close ties of blood and destiny. This is especially so since the natural place for Palestinians is in Palestine, and because Lebanon will never be an accomplice to this inhuman crime which the world is now openly witnessing with strong condemnation.

To test the waters, Israel resorted to launching consecutive proposals along the road to reversing its decision. It announced that among the deportees, there were some deported by mistake who would be allowed to return. In a form of bartering, Israel said it is willing to allow a medical team to reach the deportees by way of humanitarian organizations if Lebanon agrees to allow supply trucks to pass through its lines regularly.

Finally, the latter Israeli proposal exposes the foolish act which Israel committed by implementing the deportation decision without making any sound calculations. This Zionist proposal included Tel Aviv's agreement to return the deportees in exchange for extinguishing the torch of the intifadah and stopping all its activities on the road of brave resistance.

Henceforth, the objective is the intifadah and the intention is to suffocate the spirit of Palestinian resistance and to strip them of any moral and material weapons that will enable them to free their land and achieve self-determination on their national soil. This is something which Tel Aviv must know is impossible.

Israel Said Opposed To Peace

JN2612092192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Dec 92

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN today comments on the Middle East peace process and the call made by the foreign ministers of the Arab sides concerned with the peace process, urging the UN Security Council to implement its resolution regarding the repatriation of Palestinian deportees, saying: Over the past 40 years, no single international resolution or charter has been spared persistent Israeli violations. The UN Security Council has condemned Israeli measures and violations hundreds of times. However, the end result is what we see today.

TISHRIN adds: After intensive and strenuous international efforts helped convene the peace conference, and more than one year after the start of the Washington talks, Israel has committed a serious and new aggression by uprooting hundreds of Palestinians from their homeland and deporting them into the occupied part of southern Lebanon, leaving them in the barren no-man's-land there, without any water, food, or shelter to protect them from the chilly weather in flagrant defiance of the international community and its charters and principles.

TISHRIN wonders: How can peace prevail in the Middle East and how can a just settlement be reached if Israeli rulers continue to reject the principles and charters cherished by the international community and the Security Council and allow themselves to practice the law of the jungle at a time when the world strongly aspires to enforce the law of right and justice?

TISHRIN affirms that the Arabs have emerged from the peace talks with the conviction that Israeli rulers do not want peace, and that they are procrastinating and prevaricating to bring down the peace process. The paper urges the UN Security Council to confront the Israeli defiance, and asks the entire international community to put its weight behind the efforts to ensure the repatriation of Palestinian deportees as well as the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: The Middle East peace process is at a critical junction. As for the dangers posed to its future, they are numerous and grave.

It is impossible to defuse these dangers unless the international community shoulders its responsibilities and unless the cosponsors of the peace process play an effective and positive role in the interest of right and justice. Pending this, the hundreds of Palestinians deported will continue to press heavily on the conscience of Westerners, whose feelings and sentiments awaken from their slumber when the fate of a single Jew is at stake and fail to take action when the destiny of a whole people threatened with death and destruction is at stake.

UN Urged To Take Action on Expulsions

JN3112094592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 31 Dec 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the crime of expelling Palestinians from their homeland, AL-BA'TH says in its editorial: This is Israel. It is challenging the East, West, and United Nations. It is turning the issue of deportees into an issue of providing food for them, the same as it turned the Palestine question from an issue of the land it usurped into an issue of refugees who left their land of their own free will, as the Zionist propaganda claims.

AL-BA'TH adds: Discussions are being held in interested capitals and in Israel, which caused the trouble, about a refuge for the expelled Palestinians. There will, however, be no discussion about the implementation of Security Council Resolution 799. This is because Israel has rejected it.

AL-BA'TH asks: If Israel commits crimes and escapes world punishment and occupies lands, in defiance of the Security Council and its resolutions as well as the international organization and its recommendations, what shall we do? AL-BA'TH says: We should make the world feel that although we are many countries we are one nation, that we have a position that should not be belittled, and that we have a right over which there is no bargaining.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Such a thing cannot be achieved without a clear resolution. The United Nations, to which we resort in order to show our weakness rather than obtain our rights, is called on to either show its credibility or declare its bankruptcy. That is, unless the United Nations' evasion serves those who do not want to see an Arab awakening that protects the Arabs and safeguards their rights.

Under the headline "The World Is Placed Before Its Responsibilities, AL-THAWRAH writes about the mission of UN envoy James Jonah, who is charged with implementing the Security Council resolution calling for the return of the deportees to their homeland. The paper says: There is no doubt that the facts discovered by the UN envoy are not new to the international community. These facts condemn Israel and expose its repressive and terrorist practices aimed at depriving an entire people, not only the deportees, of the basic components of a free and honorable life.

AL-THAWRAH says: If international legitimacy disregarded such practices in the past and was satisfied with issuing embarrassed statements that lack deterrent measures and punishment, it would be impermissible now to remain silent over these practices. It would also be totally unacceptable to show any leniency or flexibility toward Israel, particularly since these measures have become a real danger threatening the peace process with collapse that would escalate tension in the region and drown it in a whirlpool of endless wars and tragedies.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: After UN envoy Jonah's failure to wrest any Israeli commitment to implement Resolution 799 and to return the deportees to their homeland, the Security Council has become duty bound to discuss the issue again and to adopt a new resolution containing deterrent measures, as it did in similar cases.

State Escalates Tigris, Euphrates Water Dispute

PM2912144592 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

[Muhammad 'Allam report: "Vehemently Criticizing Ankara, Damascus States: It Has No Desire To Improve Relations"]

[Text] Cairo—In a sudden Syrian escalation of invective against Turkey, Damascus has leveled six strongly worded accusations at Ankara: intransigence, violation of international law, usurpation of rights, misuse of right, lack of desire to improve the atmosphere of relations, and imposing conditions and resorting to procrastination to delay final agreement on the sharing of the Tigris and Euphrates waters.

Syria warned of the danger of any Arab state's financing a project which Turkey is preparing for the Tigris and Euphrates basin, because that would put suffocating pressure on it. It drew the Arab League's and member states' attention to the danger of supporting the Turkish "peace pipeline" project designed to supply Israel with water.

In an [illegible] official memorandum which the League received a few days ago and whose text AL-HAYAH has read, Damascus stressed the need to link relations between any Arab state and Turkey with Ankara's stands on the Tigris and Euphrates waters. And it urged that Arab pressure on Ankara be stepped up in a "committed and constructive" way to secure—as soon as possible—a clear agreement on the sharing of the two rivers' waters with Syria and Iraq. This is because Turkey "is harming Arab interests associated with a vital element—water."

The Syrian memorandum urged the League to issue two resolutions (Damascus proposed the draft resolutions) on water resources and food security. The first urges the

Arab states to "hasten to submit memorandums on their water problems with non-Arab states." The second calls for "a unified Arab position toward these non-Arab states, especially as food security is linked to water."

In its memorandum Syria expressed utmost astonishment, because "it is unreasonable for Turkey to conclude with its (formerly) Soviet, Bulgarian, and Greek neighbors agreements on its common international waters and yet procrastinate for decades to avoid reaching a just and reasonable agreement on common international waters with its Arab neighbors."

Syria attributed its escalation against Turkey to the following reasons:

First, although the talks among Syria, Iraq, and Turkey began in 1962, they have produced no positive results with regard to sharing the two rivers' waters in a fair and acceptable way. The reason for this is the Turkish side's position, which is becoming more and more intransigent.

Second, Turkey's violation of international rules and conventions and its claim to rights that do not belong to it by its insistence on considering the Tigris and Euphrates two rivers crossing the borders rather than two common international rivers among the three states. This is in addition to its attempt to impose—on the basis of its belief in this connection—the idea that it has rights which give it, as it claims, the absolute freedom to dispose of the two rivers' waters within its political boundaries on the pretext that they originate from Turkish territory.

Third, Turkey's claim that the waters passing across the Syrian-Turkish border to both Syria and Iraq are a big sacrifice on the Turkish side toward its neighbors.

Fourth, imposing conditions on the pretext of the claimed need to use technology in the irrigation projects in the two rivers' basins in the three countries, and linking the rationing of the use of water, ignoring the existing political boundaries among the three states.

Fifth, considering the Tigris and Euphrates basins one basin and the possibility of transferring the water from the Tigris and Euphrates via the al-Tharthar project in Iraq.

The Syrian memorandum urged the League and member states to do the following:

First, not to finance any Turkish project in the Tigris and Euphrates basin, on the grounds that any financing of any project would constitute a means of exerting suffocating pressure on two Arab states—Syria and Iraq.

Second, the need to reactivate technical and legal coordination so as to bring views closer and confront the stealing of water in southern Lebanon, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip.

Third, to urge Turkey to respect international law and take account of common interests. And also to examine the political background to the proposed regional projects like the "peace pipeline" project and its impact on the Arab east, especially as it is designed to supply the Zionist entity in Palestine with huge quantities of water.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Elected President for 2-Year Term

LD3012164492 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani was elected today on a decisive vote cast by the members of the Resolution and Settlement Council as first president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan for another two years.

A BIA correspondent reported that today's session of the Resolution and Settlement Council was opened after the reading of some verses from the Holy Koran by esteemed Qari Mohin. Esteemed Sayd Nurullah Emad, chairman of the central commission for the drafting of provisions and convocation of the Resolution and Settlement Council then explained the election procedure. Then Mowlawi Mohammad Shah Fazli was proposed as today's session chairman and esteemed Mowlawi Nasrullah Mansur and esteemed Kashafi were proposed as secretaries. They were approved unanimously by the members of the council.

The BIA correspondent adds that when the session's chairman and secretaries and members of the central commission for the drafting of provisions and convocation of the Resolution and Settlement Council took up their special positions, esteemed Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, followed by esteemed Mowlawi Mohammad Shah Fazli, esteemed Mowlawi Mir Hamza, esteemed Mowlawi Mansur, members of the Leadership Council, and leader of the Islamic Alliance, esteemed Abdorrab Rasul Sayaf, and members of the cabinet, followed by the elected delegates of each province, went in order to the ballot box to cast their vote.

At the end of the session esteemed Mowlawi Mohammad Shah Fazli, chairman of the session, held a news conference and announced to domestic and foreign journalists that esteemed Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, in receiving 916 votes, was appointed as the first president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan for a period of two years.

Appointment 'Declaration of War'

LD3112120092 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] A responsible official of the leadership bureau of the Islamic Party [Hezb-e Eslami] of Afghanistan described the appointment of [Burhanuddin] Rabbani as head of state for two years as a declaration of war against the nation. A responsible official of the Islamic Party leadership bureau in Charasiab told a correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom that the appointment of Rabbani by the fake [Resolution and Settlement] Council was not indicative of the will of our Muslim nation and he called it an open declaration of war against the Afghan nation. The official considered the act as a dangerous move and said that it may possibly bring about very grave events.

The responsible official of the party's leadership bureau said that responsibility for all dangerous events stemming from the results of this fake, shameful, and unlawful action will rest with Rabbani and his political partners.

Hekmatyar Forces Fire Missiles at Kabul 30 Dec

LD3012163192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] According to a report by a source at Kabul garrison, this afternoon a number of missiles were fired at Kabul city from the directions of Bagrami and Band-e Ghazi [east of Kabul]. They hit residential areas at first, Microrayon, Maslakh, and Pol-e Mahmud Khan [all east and southeast of the presidential palace]. The direction from which the missiles were fired indicates that these missiles were fired by forces of Hezb-e Eslami of Hekmatyar.

As a result of the missile attack, a number of homes, including one state establishment, were damaged.

The missile attacks were carried out at a time when elected representatives of the Afghan nation gathered at the Reconciliation and Settlement Council [Showra-ye Hal va 'Aqd] in Kabul to determine the country's [policy].

Hekmatyar Visits Islamic Party Frontline 29 Dec

LD3112111592 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] A correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom reported from jihad trenches to the south of Kabul that mujahed brother Hekmatyar, the leader [amir] of the Islamic Party [Hezb-e Eslami] of Afghanistan, toured the trenches of frontline mujahed forces the day before yesterday. During the tour brother mujahed Hekmatyar, accompanied by the party's officials responsible for jihad affairs, issued instructions to responsible officials concerning further improvement in jihad tasks. He praised the faithful patience and resilience of the mujahedin.

The report adds that brother mujahed Hekmatyar also instructed engineers and responsible officials about the commencement of a project. The project is to provide drinking water for people in Charasiab district [south of Kabul]. Brother mujahed Hekmatyar allocated locations for drilling two deep wells and a large water reservoir. The correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom writes that broad facilities in supplying clean drinking water will be provided for the people of Charasiab with the completion of the aforementioned project.

Iran's Rowqiroli Promises Help in Solving Problems

LD3012211192 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 30, IRNA—Iran will spare no efforts to help Islamic Afghanistan tackle its problems, Deputy

Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs, Ala'eddin Borujerdi said here Wednesday [30 Dec].

An Iranian political delegation headed by Borujerdi arrived here to hold discussions with the Afghanistan's interim Islamic government and the heads of Mojahedin groups.

Borujerdi expressed hope that at this critical political stage, whatever decisions the heads of Mojahedin groups take, would be on the basis of piety and self-restraint.

He hoped that within the framework of collective cooperation Afghanistan's current problems could be solved as soon as possible.

Restoration of political stability, he added, was a major step toward reconstruction of the country.

Talks With Islamic Unity Leader

LD3112114792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] At a meeting today with Hojat ol-Eslam Mazari, the secretary general of the Islamic Unity Party [Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami], Mr. Borujerdi, the deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania, who is in Kabul, discussed the latest political developments in Afghanistan. At the meeting Mr. Borujerdi stressed: Because of the importance the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches to stability and peace in Afghanistan we are monitoring political developments in that country. He also expressed hope that the political problems between all the mojahedin groups will be resolved through mutual understanding and talks. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran will respect any decision on concord between the mojahedin groups and adheres to its policy of noninterference in the domestic affairs of that country.

Hojat ol-Eslam Mazari thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its goodwill and efforts. He said: The Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan believes that so long as the main mojahedin groups do not see eye to eye Afghanistan will not see peace.

Bangladesh

Burma To Expedite Repatriation of Refugees

BK3012163492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1552 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Dec 30 (AFP)—Burma agreed Wednesday [30 December] to expedite the repatriation of Burmese Muslim refugees from Bangladesh during official-level talks here, a local official said.

The decision was conveyed by Burmese delegation leader Maung Aung during the 12th round of talks where he also cleared a list of 29,252 refugees, the highest number of listed refugees to be approved for return.

During the two-hour meeting, Maung Aung, director general of the Burmese Immigration Department, met with a Bangladeshi delegation led by the civil chief of southeastern Chittagong Division Omar Faruq.

The speedy repatriation of 250,877 listed refugees, known as Rohingyas, "was the focal point of our talks," Faruq later told reporters, adding steps had been taken to simplify the clearance process.

An estimated 280,000 Rohingyas have fled Burma since 1991, alleging persecution by Burmese troops. Rangoon has denied the charges but later signed an agreement with Bangladesh in April providing for their voluntary repatriation.

According to Bangladeshi refugee officials, nearly 6,000 refugees have returned voluntarily in 16 batches over the past four months. A further 1,154 are scheduled to return January 3.

During Wednesday's meeting, Bangladesh handed Burma a new list of 14,925 refugees for repatriation clearance.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United States have accused Dhaka of "coerced" repatriation—a charge that Bangladesh officials have rejected as "unfair and uncalled for."

Faruq said the Burmese side had also agreed to allow foreign journalists to visit repatriated refugees if they apply to the Rangoon authorities.

India

Five Militants Killed in Punjab 31 Dec

BK3112052892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] In Punjab, five militants were among ten persons killed in separate encounters since last night. According to an official spokesman, two militants were killed in Bhatinda District while three in Gurdaspur District. In Ludhiana District, four persons of two families were gunned down by militants in Khanna area.

Curfew Relaxed in Various Parts of Gujarat

BK3112053492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] In Gujarat, the situation is reported to be peaceful in Ahmadabad City since last night. The relaxation in the curfew has been given in various parts of the city. However, no relaxation was given in (Gagrapat) police station area, where three persons were killed and two injured in firing and stabbing incidents yesterday.

Minister on Pakistan-Sponsored Terrorism in India

BK3112082292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] The Home Minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has called upon the international community to take serious note of Pakistan-sponsored terrorist activities in India. In an interview to ANA in New Delhi, Mr. Chavan said that abundant evidence is available to establish Islamabad's total involvement in terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir and in Punjab. He referred in this context, to the disclosure made by a Pakistan-trained militant who gave minute details about that country's involvement in terrorist activities in Kashmir and in Punjab. Mr. Chavan said that on the basis of the information given by the captured militant, huge armament dumps were discovered in Rajasthan and Gujarat. The home minister pointed out that fencing of the border, flood lighting, and setting up of observation posts have reduced infiltration along Punjab and Kashmir. He said that the Pakistanis are now dumping arms in Rajasthan and Gujarat. The home minister also noted that the extension by Pakistan of its anti-India activities to the east through Bangladesh is part of that country's design to destabilize India.

Pakistan, Bangladesh Accused of Minority Attacks

BK3112094892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] India has expressed its unflinching commitment to secularism and charged Pakistan and Bangladesh with official connivance in premeditated attacks on minorities and their places of worship. Replying to several letters from South Asian and Black African Muslims protesting against the demolition of the Babri masjid [mosque], the Indian Consul General in New York, Mr. Gajanan Wakankar, assured them that India is determined to foster communal harmony and uphold secular ideals. According to agency reports, Mr. Wakankar said that India's commitment to secularism remains strong and the nation will emerge even stronger than before. He said the Babri Masjid incident was used as a pretext in Pakistan and Bangladesh for willful desecration of places of worship of the minorities.

Minister on Significant Rise in Textile Exports

BK3112094092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] The country's textile industry has shown a significant increase in its export performance. Reviewing the performance, the minister of state for textiles, Mr. Ashok Gehlot, said that the garment industry accounted for the lion's share. Exports during April to October 1992 amounted to about 10,000 crore rupees as compared to about 7,200 crore rupees during the same period last year. The minister said that the power-loom sector has emerged as an important component of the textile industry as it produces 72 percent of the total production of cloth in the country. The government has evolved a 25 crore-rupee scheme to set up marketing complexes to augment supply of yarn and improve the marketability of handloom products.

Iran

President, Turkey's Ozal Discuss Islamic Issues

NC3112080192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and President Turgut Ozal of Turkey held a telephone conversation last night to discuss convening a limited summit of Islamic countries in order to assess the problems of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, and Babari Mosque.

During this conversation they discussed the most important issues of the Islamic world—Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and India in particular.

Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati met Ozal in Ankara last night. During this meeting, the Turkish president stressed the need for broadening bilateral commercial-economic cooperation and reducing present tariffs. He deemed the establishment of permanent contacts between the private sectors of the two countries as benefiting Tehran-Ankara trade ties.

The deputy foreign minister said the propounding of historical territorial claims is dangerous and termed them serious threats to regional peace and stability. During the meeting, the two sides stressed the return of the Palestinians driven from their homes and the need for greater UN action regarding the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Last evening, Besharati concluded his meetings with discussions with his Turkish counterpart on the Turkish proposals for constructing a gas pipeline, linking the power grids of the two countries, collaborating with Turkey on Iranian development projects, and the establishment of a joint bilateral commission on economic affairs and transportation.

STERN Report on KDP Killings Denied

LD3012173092 Tehran IRNA in English 0929 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Bonn, Dec. 30, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy here in an announcement strongly rejected the accusations of the German magazine STERN on involvement of Iranian diplomats in the killing of the leaders of the outlawed Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) of Iran.

The announcement issued Tuesday [29 December] referred to the September 18 press release of the embassy and rejected any interference on the part of Iran in the assassinations in Berlin in summer this year.

It said in no official or unofficial talks with the German officials anything had been mentioned about Iran's interference in the killing of the Kurdish leaders. It has even been assured that witnesses against Iran on this story do not exist, the announcement said, adding that no Iranian diplomat had been accused or expelled from Germany.

It added that the Iranian government's representatives in their talks with the security officials of Germany had always announced their readiness for cooperation to clarify the matter.

The German weekly STERN in a recent issue claimed that based on confidential reports obtained from the criminal police two Iranian diplomats had hands in the killing of the KDP leaders. It claimed that the German government had reached agreement with the Iranian ambassador in Bonn so that the two diplomats leave the German soil peacefully.

Details of Iranian-Azerbaijani Cooperation Memo

LD3012204492 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 30, IRNA—Iran and the Azerbaijan Republic signed a memorandum, calling for cooperation in the fields of trade, banking, education, oil and gas, and railways.

According to the memorandum signed before the departure of Azerbaijan Vice President Parviz Guseynov last night, Iran's Central Bank is to hold training courses for 30 Azeri banking officials, and help Azerbaijan publish stamps, cheques, bonds and promissory notes. Iran's Melli Bank is to open a branch in Baku.

The two sides also decided to exchange students and professors, set up scientific-technical research centres and cooperate in tourism industry.

The note calls for Iran's export of natural gas to Azerbaijan and its import of Azerbaijani gas oil. The Iranian National Oil Company will reopen its office in Baku and cooperate in oil exploration and related activities.

It was also agreed that experts of the two countries present a practical solution on connecting the Caucasus republic's railways to the Islamic republic's railway network, and implement joint railway projects.

Azerbaijan will buy from Iran 100 buses, 50 minibuses, 10 automobiles and 5 ambulances from Iran. Iran will also export 2,000 tons of rice to Azerbaijan.

The two sides experts agreed to find a solution on the transport of over 2,700 railway wagon-loads of Iranian goods stranded in Azerbaijan because of the Karabakh conflict.

Iran voiced its readiness to train and cooperate with the Azeris in the customs fields.

The Azeri vice president left for his country Tuesday night after a two-day stay.

Tehran, Kiev Industrial Cooperation Discussed

LD3012214092 Tehran IRNA in English 1859 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Moscow, Dec. 30, IRNA—Kiev is to cooperate with Tehran in the field of reconstruction and establishment of industrial installations, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister for Industry and Construction Affairs Vasyl Yevtukhov said in a meeting with the Iranian Ambassador to Ukraine Behzad Mesahari.

The visit of the Iranian economic-industry delegation to Ukraine was welcomed by Yevtukhov, saying that there is no obstacle in the way of concluding eco-industrial agreements between the two countries and expanding mutual relations.

Necessary measures should be taken by Tehran and Kiev toward the upgrading of mutual ties, he added.

Commentary Views New U.S. Administration, Issues

LD3012215092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1600 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Eventually, seven weeks after the presidential elections in America, Bill Clinton, that country's President-elect, introduced the members of his cabinet toward the end of last week.

The appointment of the new cabinet, which begins its formal work as of the end of this [Iranian] month, can be assessed from various aspects. One of those aspects is the formation of the core of the U.S. foreign policy or the so-called foreign policy team, most of whom are veteran American politicians from the time of the presidency of the last Democratic president, Jimmy Carter. These individuals also held parliamentary and administrative posts during Republican administrations.

The appointment of this homogeneous group, whose leader, as the new secretary of state, is the former U.S. secretary of state, Cyrus Vance's deputy during the Carter era—shows Clinton's particular domestic affairs and foreign policy outlook in encountering the ambiguities of the present world.

Another characteristic of the appointments is the new President's commitment to the ideological principles of the Democratic Party, an ideology whose foundations include a leaning toward extensive U.S. activity in resolving international crises, presence in the world arenas—and this based on traditional models such as monitoring human rights—are considered to be some of the characteristics of this commitment.

Considering that Clinton is the first American President in the post cold war period, and considering the appearance of new thoughts and methods with greatly differing

characteristics from those of the past and which are taking shape in today's world, has made some political observers believe that taking into account the current transitional period, America's status in the world will be threatened if American foreign policy undergoes swift change. Some of George Bush's controversial decisions—and this during the last few weeks of his administration—can be given as an instance.

The most important of these moves is coordination with the United Nations in connection with sending troops to Somalia, which also enjoyed Clinton's support. It looks as if the two presidents have come to an agreement for depicting before the eyes of the world the process of continuing America's foreign policy.

On the other hand some political observers believe that changes occurring in the formation of political boundaries and the backdrop of the emergence of independent economic and political poles call for serious change.

Through the years, American diplomacy has witnessed astonishing industrial and economic change and a great deal of colonial rivalries and adventurism. But today's world now seriously questions the past fundamental principles and thoughts, and intends to refute and reject them. Therefore America should make the best choice in its foreign policy priorities for further alignment with other countries. That is, in fact, a policy in contradiction with what America followed during the cold war era or in the the bipolar world with a subgrouping of states with varying capabilities. Under such circumstances the justification of power superiority to cover up weaknesses seemed an obvious choice. But today that policy on its own is incapable of responding to the needs of countries in building a new world.

Finally, to sum up, it seems that the new American administration will have to influence the United Nations by combining the experience of the past years and the relative continuation of former policies with new methods, including endeavoring to seize the levers of supervision and further control. Therefore it seems that Democrats are seeking to utilize their traditional methods, in the mould of new behavioral patterns, for facing the world ahead of them.

As for domestic issues, the new leaders hope to overcome, by appointing this group that enjoys sufficient support and coordination of the congress and the legislative system internal social and economic problems.

* Paper on Rafsanjani's Possible Resignation

93AS0316A London KEYHAN in Persian 10 Dec 92 pp 1, 11

[Interview with anonymous source with access to government circles by London KEYHAN; place and date not given]

[Text] "Hashemi-Rafsanjani's resignation appears to be certain, but what cannot be decisively determined is how this resignation will be handled." An informed source with access to government circles in Iran, who did not want his name revealed because he goes back and forth between Tehran and Europe, said in an interview with KEYHAN that the ways that Hashemi-Rafsanjani was hoping would be opened to bring Iran out of economic stagnation, runaway inflation, unemployment, and other economic and social problems have reached a dead end, and Hashemi-Rafsanjani is seriously contemplating resigning.

The above-mentioned source said: While the resignation of Hashemi-Rafsanjani from his position as president is an issue, the other likely way for him is to decline to be a candidate for the next presidential election, which will be held in Mordad 1371 [23 Jul-22 Aug 1992] (in eight months) [as published].

In response to the question of whether the Islamic government has a replacement for Hashemi-Rafsanjani, he said: Although Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the present seems "irreplaceable," his quarrel with Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic, has reached a point that these two can no longer fit in the same government. One of them must give in, and that is most likely Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

A few months ago, Baqer Kharrazi, the head of the Hezbollah in Qom, in a speech, the full text of which was published in SALAM newspaper, spoke of a "creeping coup d'etat" against the leader and "demolishing" the regime of the Islamic Republic and replacing it with a presidential system. Simultaneous with this speech, more or less, strong criticism began in the Friday prayer sermons and pre-agenda speeches of the Majles concerning the "government policies" on the whole and some of the ministers of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Cabinet, 'Abdollah Nuri, the minister of interior, in particular, which indicates a deep rift between the leader of the Islamic Republic and the president.

The Main Line of the Program

The height of this conflict appeared in an interview given by 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, the speaker of the Majles, to KEYHAN newspaper (published in Tehran). He said: There are two groups in the leadership of the Islamic Republic. According to him, the leadership of the "first group, who believe in the continuation of the revolution and preservation of Islamic values," supports the leader of the Islamic Republic, 'Ali Khamene'i. In the opinion of the speaker of the Majles, the second group is made up of "technocrats and liberals" whose main agenda is economic development and who are prepared to sacrifice the Islamic and revolutionary values on this course. Even though the speaker of the Majles did not say who the leader of the "second group" is, given Hashemi-Rafsanjani's commitments in the first Five-Year Plan, there was no need to mention the leader of the second group by name.

The main policy of the Five-Year Plan of the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani is to create a single foreign

currency rate, and even though it is supposed to be implemented by the end of the Five-Year Plan (in a little over half a year), still no information is available about how it is going to be implemented. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance of the Islamic Republic, has only said in this regard that in the 1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993] budget, there shall be no foreign currency allocation for government organizations and departments and the foreign currency needed by them shall be calculated on the basis of 100 tomans per dollar and paid to them in rials in order for them to purchase the foreign currency they need. But now we cannot conclude that the rate of the dollar to the rial will be set at 100 tomans. According to foreign currency and monetary experts, the foreign currency revenues of the Islamic Republic are less than what is needed to sustain the exchange rate at that level for any length of time.

Social Consequences

Creating a single foreign currency rate in the Islamic Republic is not merely an economic matter. In the opinion of experts, what has made the government hesitate more than anything else are the social consequences that will automatically follow with the creation of a single foreign currency rate, the most important of which are the much greater inflation and pressure that will be placed on the low-income classes and those on fixed incomes, such as employees and workers.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani not only tries to make these important social consequences appear minimal so as to implement the single foreign currency rate as easily as possible but tries to make his share in the draining of the Iranian economy appear less significant than it really is. Even though nearly three and a half years ago, when he was presenting the first Five-Year Plan, he had made it explicit that as a high-ranking leader he shares in all the failures and successes of the regime, gradually, he has distanced himself from his declaration and, both in his speeches and through statements made by those close to him, pretended that the economic failures of the regime and dragging the country to the verge of economic downfall are unrelated to his government and policies.

The above-mentioned source, in response to the question by KEYHAN as to what extent Hashemi-Rafsanjani has succeeded in presenting himself as a reformist who has been a victim of the conspiracies of the antireformists, said that the people in fact do not consider Hashemi-Rafsanjani apart from the entire regime.

For this reason, the government that intended to announce by the end of the year a fixed rate of the rial to other foreign currencies based on the rate of the dollar to the rial now intends to take its proposal as a bill to the Majles. But the supporters of the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the Majles are fewer than the number needed to place the legislature of the Islamic Republic under the burden of such a heavy responsibility.

The above-mentioned informed source told London KEYHAN: If the Majles does not ratify the bill on creating a single foreign currency rate, which the government intends to offer, Hashemi-Rafsanjani will use it as an excuse to resign; therefore, his resignation prior to the end of his four-year presidential term cannot be dismissed.

The above-mentioned source said: But the conflict between the leader and the president of the Islamic Republic is not solely over the economic and social policies and their incompatible positions with regard to foreign policy, rather the fight for power also plays an important role in this conflict. In his opinion, Khamene'i today no longer sees his position as the same as it was after the death of Khomeyni in 1368 [1989].

Joint Conspiracy

After Khomeyni's death in 1368, 'Ali Khamene'i, with the active alliance of Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Ahmad Khomeyni, in a session in the Assembly of Experts, the details of the discussions of which have not yet been revealed, was elected as the leader of the Islamic Republic. Hashemi-Rafsanjani counted on the new leader, who owed his position to him, being a tool in his hands. But, according to that informed source, Khamene'i considered the new leadership position he had gained as an opportunity to free himself from the inferiority complex which he had always felt concerning Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

According to the same source, Khamene'i now wants a president who is not only his superior in terms of political skill but an obedient servant to the leader, in the same way that Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i or Mir Hoseyn Musavi were in regards to Khomeyni.

According to the same source, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, by first sacrificing Iraj Fazel and then Mohammad Khatami, tried to buy time, but it is now evident that time is not on his side.

Calm Before the Storm

Strong rumors in Tehran indicate that Hashemi-Rafsanjani has not only threatened to resign several times but has actually "offered to the leader" his resignation. But Khamene'i, in denying this request, has preferred that Hashemi-Rafsanjani leave the arena after the "natural" completion of his presidency, so that the people will not view him as an "innocent victim" who tried to implement reforms which were obstructed by others.

The same informed source said, and passengers who have come to Europe from Tehran verify, that an atmosphere of anxiety and lack of confidence in the future governs the Iranian society, and the "calm" that is seen in Iran today is in fact a "calm before the storm." According to him: "Everyone knows and expects that important changes are ahead, but they do not know when, how, or in what direction, and this has caused considerable concern."

* Dozens Killed in Metro Construction Accident

93AS0316E London KEYHAN in Persian 10 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] The main walls of the central Metro of Tehran on Sepah Square (Imam Khomeyni Square) collapsed. As a result of this collapse, which happened simultaneously with a horrendous explosion, a deep hole was created in the street, which swallowed a car, a motorcycle, and several passersby and buried them under tons of concrete and dirt. The incident occurred at 1830 on Saturday, 14 Azar (5 Dec). At this hour, Sepah Square is extremely crowded.

The Tehran Fire Department, which came to the rescue of the injured, announced that six people were killed. But this is only the number of bodies that were pulled out of the rubble. The fire department announced that the search for other people killed or injured in the incident continues.

While the company building Tehran Metro has not yet expressed any opinion about this incident, the general manager of the Tehran Fire Department said that the cause of the accident was "the cracking of the insulation wax of the wall and the walls getting wet, which resulted in its breaking and collapsing."

A few days before this accident, also in a similar accident, a part of the Sarcheshmeh area crumbled, creating a large hole in the street. But since it occurred in the middle of the night, no one was injured.

The Tehran Metro Agency has frequently boasted of the Metro tunnels being built by Iranian workers under the supervision of committed domestic engineers.

Hence, the victims of the collapse of Sepah Street in Tehran can be considered the first victims of the Metro in Iran.

* Four Arrested in Attempt To Murder Opponents

93AS0316C London KEYHAN in Persian 10 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Paris. KEYHAN exclusive. French police arrested four Iranians in Paris who had entered France from Tehran to mark and assassinate the well-known opponents of the regime. These four entered French soil in a car rented in Germany, and in the course of a normal inspection of cars were by chance arrested by the police. Those arrested were armed, and found with them were documents indicating that they had come to mark and assassinate several well-known opponents of the Islamic Republic in Paris.

While arresting this group, the French police avoided revealing their names and their mission and said that there were two of them. According to a report, which was published at the time by the French news agency, these two people were arrested in connection with the murder of Kazem Rajavi (the representative of the people's Mojahedin organization in Switzerland) in Geneva. At that time, it was announced that the Swiss Government had officially requested that France return the two to that country.

KEYHAN succeeded in obtaining the names of the four people: "Ahmad T." and "Siamak L.," born in Tehran; "Mohsen S.," born in Esfahan; and "Sirus," from Chalus. Investigators revealed that the names of several journalists and leaders of political groups opposing the regime were on the assassination list of those arrested. KEYHAN's investigation revealed that French security officials have warned these individuals to increase their security.

Observers of security issues believe that whenever the Islamic Republic faces severe internal problems, it tries to prevent the heightening of opposition in the country and abroad by assassinating its opponents and dampening the morale of its opponents.

Simultaneous with the announcement of the news of the arrest of two persons in connection with the murder of Kazem Rajavi in Switzerland, a French businessman residing in Tehran by the name of "Raymond LeBarb," without being accused of anything, was arrested by the security organization of the Islamic Republic. The simultaneity of these arrests in Paris and Tehran made informed sources suspect that those arrested in Paris were probably "important" individuals in the opinion of the Tehran regime, and hence this French businessman was in fact taken as a "hostage." "LeBarb" was released in Tehran last Saturday without any explanation.

It is still unclear whether or not the arrested terrorists have other colleagues in Europe as well.

* Millions Spent on Decorating Ministry

93AS0316B London KEYHAN in Persian 10 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Tehran newspapers report that on the order of Mahluji, the minister of mines and metals, nearly 200 million tomans have been spent on the decoration of this ministry. Every floor of the high-rise building of the ministry has been decorated with one variety of mined stone. According to informed witnesses, the decoration of the ministry cost 140,000 tomans per square meter.

SALAM newspaper wrote that this change in decoration was done merely to please the minister and has no effect on raising the level of production or stimulating the mines and metals sector.

Nepal & Bhutan

Country's Power Shortage Problem Viewed

BK2812045592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Dec 92 p A7

[By Sonny Inbaraj]

[Text] This winter is indeed miserable for the people of Nepal. Besides having to put up with the bone-chilling

temperatures in Kathmandu valley and areas in the surrounding Himalayan mountains, which very often go down to below zero, Nepalese also have to suffer daily peak-time power cuts for at least two hours, on top of having to pay between 55 to 100 per cent more for their electricity.

The power shortage is so extreme that it threatens to knock one point off the country's economic growth rate, according to Nepal's National Planning Commission.

In a recently released report, the commission said that unless power shortages are lessened, the gross national product (GNP) may be close to 4 per cent, if not it may be 3 per cent because of the disruption it will bring to the tourist industry and industrial production.

The per capita income of Nepal's 18 million people is US$170 a year. Exports are negligible and the Himalayan nation's only hard currency comes from foreign aid and the thousands of tourists who trek through its mountain wilderness and come to scale the world's highest peaks.

The power problem comes on top of a drought this year that cut agricultural production by about 30 per cent.

Nepal, situated at the foot of the Himalayas has massive hydroelectric potential, but the country's lack of financial resources has left production capacity at only 300 Megawatts (MW). The present shortage of power is in part a result of delays in building the World Bank-funded Arun 111 hydroelectric plant at the foot of Mount Everest. The initial cost of the plant—which was to have a capacity of 404 MW—was US$650 million.

However, due to inordinate procrastination and poor project implementation by the Nepalese government, the cost of the Arun 111 project has now doubled to US$1.2 billion. As a condition for helping fund the plant, the World Bank has now demanded an increase in Nepal's rates for electricity, a resource that Nepalese citizens are used to receiving cheaply.

Following the steep price rise this year, the government plans to increase tariffs by a further 50 per cent gradually.

The World Bank aside, another hydroelectric project that has made the ordinary Nepalese feel shortchanged by the ruling Nepali Congress government is the controversial Tanakpur barrage to be built on the Mahakali River by neighbouring India. New Delhi is also bearing the full cost of the project.

For the use of about 2.9 hectares of Nepalese land, India is to provide Nepal with 2 MW of electricity and 4.25 cubic metres per second of irrigation water free of charge from the total of 120 MW and 56.67 cubic metres per second annual output by the project. Opposition parties argue that since the water will be accumulated in Nepal, the two neighbours should receive equal shares of power and irrigation water generated by the facility.

Opposition leaders from the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist-Leninists), the left-leaning Unity Centre, the Maoist Masal (Flaming Torch) group and the Nepal Peasants and Workers Party said Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala "sold-off" Nepalese interests to New Delhi and ceded some Nepalese territory for the construction of the river dam, when the premier signed the Tanakpur Accord during his official visit to India last December.

A legal suit filed in Nepal's Supreme Court against Koirala in late April by private advocate Bal Krishna Neupane contended that the project for the building of the Tanakpur Barrage violated the Constitution because it was not approved by a two-thirds majority of a joint session of parliament, where the ruling Nepali Congress has only a simple majority. Under Article 126 of the Nepalese Constitution, any agreement or treaty involving natural resources and the distribution and utilization thereof must be approved by a majority of two-thirds in parliament.

In reply to the suit, Premier Koirala contended that there was only "an understanding" with New Delhi on the project and as such it did not require a two-thirds majority.

In a landmark decision on Dec 15, the Supreme Court in Kathmandu ruled that the document signed on Tanakpur between Premier Koirala and Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao last December was indeed a treaty and not an "understanding" between Nepal and India as claimed by the Nepalese government. The Supreme Court also ordered Koirala to seek parliamentary ratification of the Tanakpur Barrage Accord but stopped short of saying whether a two-thirds or a simple majority was required.

After the verdict, the opposition has stepped up its campaign in calling for Koirala's resignation. In a press conference early last week, leaders from the left issued a statement alleging that Koirala had lied and misled the public and parliament over Tanakpur.

"The Koirala government has been telling lies to the general public and parliament in particular by describing the Indo-Nepalese accord on the Tanakpur project as merely an understanding and not an agreement or a treaty," the statement said.

"The Supreme Court in its verdict on Dec 15 has already proved that the Tanakpur hydroelectric project agreement was a treaty needing the endorsement of parliament," it said, adding that the agreement—which has not been brought before parliament—had hurt "national sovereignty and severed the national interest." The leftist parties said protests would be launched in 4,000 villages throughout the kingdom, culminating in larger protests in district capitals and the national capital on Jan 12.

Meanwhile, the Working Committee of the Nepali Congress apparently received a commitment from Koirala

that he would not proceed with his threat to hold a mid-term election and amend the Constitution with regard to Article 126, whose provisions state that major treaties on sharing resources with other countries require two-thirds support of parliament.

The Working Committee said Koirala's threat of a mid-term election was "unnecessary" and appealed to the opposition to abandon "agitational politics" on the Tanakpur issue and resolve the matter inside parliament.

Analysts however pointed out that though the Supreme Court's ruling was a blow to Koirala the verdict by itself gave the premier time.

"Only one section of Article 126 was interpreted by the court with regard to the Tanakpur Accord signed with India. No attempt was made by the Supreme Court judges to interpret the other sections in the article with regard to the manner of ratification to be obtained in parliament. Hence this would mean that the court would be petitioned to interpret the Constitution because quite obviously all the political parties in parliament would squabble on whether a two-thirds or a simple majority is required," said Harihar Raj Joshi of the University of Washington-based HIMALAYAN RESEARCH BULLETIN.

"By not determining the method of ratification the Supreme Court has saved Koirala's face by giving him more time to be in the government to negotiate further with India on Tanakpur and come to a compromise with the opposition," added Joshi.

Nepal's struggle for multi-party democracy began in February 1990 and left hundreds dead and thousands in prison. It finally ended when the Nepali Congress government won last May's elections and introduced a new political system that also saw the absolute monarchy under King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah relegated to that of a constitutional monarch.

Of the 205 parliamentary seats, the Nepali Congress won 110 to form a government under Koirala, while the second largest party, the United Marxists-Leninists, took 68 seats and formed an alliance with other left groups to control 82 seats.

Since all rivers flowing in Nepal have a north-south direction and they enter into India after crossing Nepal, a meaningful cooperation for mutual benefits is possible only by involving India in the venture. In fact the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship signed between the two countries in 1950 itself had provided a basis for such cooperation.

The first mutual benefit water development project undertaken by India and Nepal was the Kosi project after an agreement was concluded between the two countries on April 23, 1954. The tapping of the Kosi river consisted of a canal system, flowing channels on both sides, a barrage and a hydro-electric station.

The Kosi agreement was widely criticized by opposition political parties. It was stated that it had no benefits for Nepal. The conclusion of the agreement was also objected to on the grounds that it had given extraterritorial rights to India for an indefinite period, without obtaining adequate compensation and benefits from the project.

It was also claimed that Nepal had to lose its fertile land with unequal benefits in exchange for it. It was also voiced in certain quarters that the scheme was actually designed for the furtherance of India's own interests and the well-being of the Nepalese was not given proper attention.

The Indian officials working on the project were criticized for their interference in the internal affairs of Nepal, and demands were made for their removal from the project work.

The revised agreement on the Kosi Project was signed in Dec 19, 1966 after a series of discussions between the two governments. The main provision of the 1966 agreement was that any construction and other undertaking by India in connection with the Kosi project was to be planned and carried out in consultation with the Nepalese government.

It was also decided in the revised agreement that the Nepalese government was entitled to obtain for use in Nepal up to 50 per cent of the total hydro-electric power generated by any power house situated within a 10-mile radius from the barrage site of the Kosi project.

Pakistan

Defense Minister Warns of Indian Missile Threat

BK3012081692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] The National Assembly was informed this morning that appropriate steps have been taken to counter the Indian Agni missile threat. The defense minister, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, answering the question by Mr. Liaqat Baloch, said the Agni missile can be utilized to carry both conventional and nuclear loads. The missile is not only a threat to Pakistan but also to other neighboring countries.

Replying to a number of supplementaries, the defense minister said Pakistan has raised the Agni missile threat at international level and a large number of countries have supported Pakistan's viewpoint. He assured the members that India will have to think 100 times before using this missile against Pakistan due to the measures taken by the government.

Minister Denies Ban on Opposition Rallies

BK2912160192 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Excerpts] The National Assembly, which transacted nonofficial business today, resumed discussion on agricultural policy. Some 21 members participated in the debate. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Chaudhary Shujat Hussain said there is no restriction on the opposition to organize peaceful rallies or processions anywhere in the country, but the government will not allow anyone to take the law into his own hands and create problems for the general public. He was speaking about a motion moved by Syed Iftekhar Hussain Gilani of the People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] about a 30-day ban on the entry of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto into Islamabad.

The interior minister said the PDA's protest march was unconstitutional and illegal. PDA leaders' statements clearly indicated that they were planning to create a law and order problem and had threatened to forcibly occupy the parliament and the prime minister's house. The opposition had wanted to have the assembly dissolved through such tactics, but they failed in their designs because the Pakistani people paid no attention to their appeals. He added that the restriction on the entry of the opposition leader into Islamabad was lifted after eight days and she could have come to Islamabad after a train journey between Lahore and Rawalpindi. But, when she saw that the people were not gathering at railway stations, she decided to go back from Lala Musa.

Earlier, in a brief statement, Syed Iftekhar Hussain Gilani said that the opposition protest was peaceful and their previous records clearly show that no damage was caused to any government or private property. He alleged that the Islamabad and Rawalpindi police and district administrations took harsh action against the participants in the protest march at the behest of the government. The house will meet again tomorrow morning.

Indian Remarks on President's Speech Condemned

BK3012121592 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Mohammad Yamin commentary]

[Text] The Indian Government's official spokesman has made certain highly objectionable and offensive remarks in respect of Pakistan's president and certain portions of the address that he made on 22 December to the joint session of Pakistan's Senate and the National Assembly. The portions of the presidential address under reference related to the recent demolition of the Babri Masjid [mosque] in the Indian town of Ayodhya at the hands of the militant Hindu activists.

The desecration of the Babri Masjid by India's Hindu zealots is a shameful act for which India can hardly raise its head in pride. Its sad memory will continue to haunt India until it makes due amends for it in words as well as in deeds. Also, the whole world has condemned it as a barbaric act. The entire Islamic world has been deeply hurt because it was the historic Muslim place of worship which was so wantonly destroyed under the very nose of the Indian forces in total disregard of the repeated clear injunctions by India's own Supreme Court. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's observations related to these deplorable facts.

India, even if it did not wish to lie down as the observations came from a Pakistani leader, did not have to react in the present tense manner that it did particularly as it has been at the receiving end over the Babri Mosque issue from every quarter globally. The Indian External Affairs Ministry official spokesman while making the impertinent remarks not only overstepped the bounds of his official duty, he also seems to have forsaken the common courtesy that officials, particularly of the diplomatic services, are required to display while referring to the heads of other states and governments.

In this case, it appears that the Indian Foreign Office spokesman has totally lost his cool and coherence of thought. If he let himself go in this manner on his own, his superiors in the Indian Government ought to take due notice of it and he must be pulled up for his indiscretion. If, however, he was authorized to behave like this, or in fact, did so at the behest of the Indian Foreign Office, one must deplore the sad deterioration in the standards of India's diplomacy and the erosion that has occurred in their diplomatic culture.

Official spokesmen, particularly those representing Foreign Office, are expected to act with dignity and exercise restraint even when responding to a provocation. Passing insolent remarks about heads of state and government is just out of the question. Any breach of this diplomatic convention can only be looked upon with dismay and disapproval by the civilized world.

Pakistan has acted correctly in taking prompt notice of the Indian official spokesman's indiscretion. The Indian high commissioner in Islamabad was summoned to the Pakistani Foreign Office and the foreign secretary conveyed to him the shock and disappointment of the government of Pakistan over the intemperate language used by the Indian foreign ministry official in referring to the Pakistani president's speech. The Indian envoy was reminded that the government of Pakistan has all along scrupulously avoided derogatory remarks about the Indian president and prime minister in its official pronouncements and hoped that India would show a similar regard for Pakistan's head of state and government.

Relations between India and Pakistan have never been exemplary despite frequent declarations from both sides that friendly relations are sought. Instead of adopting confidence-building measures between the countries, spraying up of irritants such as the one caused by the Indian foreign ministry spokesman hardly helps attaining the desired objectives. Apart from the restoration and reconstruction of the Babri Mosque, therefore, India should display the needed courage to dissociate itself from the uncalled-for remarks made by its over-enthusiastic Foreign Office official.

UN Asked To Stop Hindu Worship at Ayodhya

BK3012104092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] The Pakistan Council of Human Rights has sent a memorandum to the United Nations secretary general seeking his help in stopping Hindus from performing Hindu religious worship and rites at th.. site of the Babri Mosque. Council secretary Nasir Moghul has said that the attention of the world community needs to be attracted to the hostile attitude of the Indian Government because it allowed complete freedom to Hindu extremists to fulfill their heinous designs. The council in its memorandum said that massive human rights violations in India pose a threat to peace in the region.

Worship Approval Decried

BK3012144092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Pakistan has expressed its concern over the reports that the Indian authorities in Ayodhya had allowed Hindus to undertake darshan [viewing] at the makeshift temple erected by the Hindu fundamentalist elements on the site of the demolished Babri masjid [mosque]. A foreign office spokesman said in Islamabad that any such activity tantamounts to legitimizing the demolition of Babri masjid and will not be acceptable. He said the position of Pakistan and and indeed that of the entire Islamic ummah is that the martyred Babri masjid must be reconstructed exactly on the site on which it has stood for over 400 years and that any other solution would not be acceptable. The spokesman said the government is firmly resolved to exert relentless efforts in coordination with other Islamic countries and with the support of the international community to ensure that the colossal injustice represented by the demolition of the Babri masjid is rectified by rebuilding the masjid exactly and precisely on its original site.

The spokesman said Pakistan and other members of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] contact group have been working very hard to secure greater enforcement action in Bosnia-Hercegovina by the Security Council. He expressed the hope that Security Council will take an early decision on enforcement of a no-fly zone, a selective lifting of arms embargo, and the establishment of war crime tribunal. The spokesman welcomed France's readiness to participate in the military intervention in Bosnia-Hercegovina within the framework of UN. In an interview, the French foreign minister, Mr. Roland Dumas, declared that as was done in case of Iraq it was necessary to ensure the respect for the Security Council decision for a no-fly zone in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Sharif Replies to Bhutto Letter, Urges Consensus

BK3012095592 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has said that he will continue to make sincere efforts for national consensus on all issues as he did in the past because the nation's unity, the people's welfare, and the country's security are more important than personal interests and aspirations. He said this in reply to a letter written to him by opposition leader Benazir Bhutto. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that she can meet him any time for the sake of national unity and for the security and prosperity of Pakistan.

The prime minister referred to his invitation to the opposition leader and other politicians to forge an urgent consensus on the Babri Mosque issue and said that his reaction to the incident was same as any other Pakistani. I invited the political leaders so as to enable the nation to deal with the crisis. He said that the outcome of the situation arising out of the demolition of the Babri Mosque and its repercussions assumes great significance for Pakistan as well as the entire Islamic community.

The prime minister, in his letter which was issued yesterday, said that he was happy that the opposition leader agreed with the fact that a unified position should be adopted on the issue. But he was somewhat disappointed that she wanted to make this national tragedy a political issue. The prime minister stressed that we should not waste any more time and should formulate a unified national stand on the inhuman act of demolition of the Babri Mosque and the disastrous situation following the tragedy. He affirmed his government's resolve to continue protection of religious minorities. He and his colleagues will continue to seek guidance from the teachings of Pakistan's great leader Jinnah in this regard as in other matters, the prime minister added.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif reiterated that we have to leave behind our personal interests and think about Pakistan. He said he would like to move a step forward and ask all to bid farewell to personal interests and consider Pakistan as our great and (?only) objective.

A joint meeting of opposition parties was held in Karachi yesterday which decided to ask the government to resolve problems in the light of the opposition leader's letter to the prime minister and the resolution of the all-party conference. The meeting was presided over by opposition leader Benazir Bhutto.

United Arab Emirates Deports 1,920 Nationals

BK3012154492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1452 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 30 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has so far deported some 1,920 Pakistanis on charges of violating local laws, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said here Wednesday.

Some 1,300 were penalised for participating in unlawful activities, including a violent demonstration against the December 6 razing of a mosque in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya by Hindu zealots, he said, adding that 620 were declared illegal immigrants.

Four people, including a local policeman, were reportedly killed in the anti-Hindu demonstration on December 8, in which one school and a church were gutted.

A further 500 Pakistanis are awaiting deportation, the spokesman said, adding that Islamabad was in touch with the UAE authorities through its embassy to safeguard the interests of some 230,000 Pakistanis "staying there legally and doing their job honestly."

Extra Forces To Leave for Somalia in Jan

BK3012133092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] The first batch of additional troops committed by Pakistan for peacekeeping duties will be dispatched to Somalia next month. An army battalion of 880 personnel which is part of the 4,000-strong brigade will be transported to Somalia by Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Air Force.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa: Presidential Election in Dec 1994

BK3012122492 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] The next presidential election will be held in December 1994. Addressing a meeting at Rambukella yesterday after opening a garment factory, President Ranasinghe Premadasa said that according to the Constitution, the next presidential election was due in 1994 and the government would proceed with its program of work until then. There was a very weak opposition at present and leader of the opposition Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike was also sick; therefore, the president said, he would give them two years time to reorganize the opposition and for her to recover from her illness. She can even go abroad and come back fit to face the election. The president pointed out that the opposition has time till 1994 to pick a common candidate (?contesting) and they can make use of the ten traitors [as heard] who were expelled from the UNP [United National Party]. Foreign political analysts had said that the time was ripe for the UNP to hold presidential elections predicting that the UNP would secure 65 percent of the total polls. He was confident that after completing the government's program of work up to 1994, the UNP would even get around 70 percent of the total polls. He recalled that U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt twice emerged victorious by facing elections from a wheelchair. Mr. Premadasa said that he would wish to boost Mrs. Bandaranaike's morale by reminding that age was no barrier to contest elections.

Officer: Military Committed To 'Destroy' LTTE

BK2712123092 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] The general officer commanding the Joint Operations Command [JOC], General Hamilton Wanasinghe, told LANKAPUVATH news agency that Sri Lanka's military will continue to fight relentlessly to destroy the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists and restore permanent peace to Sri Lanka. Operational sources report that according to orders now in effect the security forces are pledged to bring the war to a successful and speedy conclusion. The directive, issued by the military high command, reiterates the necessity to conduct the war against the LTTE at all levels with a view to assure its destruction and a solution to the north and east problem.

The Joint Operations Command reports that LTTE terrorists have blown up a government vehicle, killing the assistant government agent for Valachchenai and five other civilians yesterday. A spokesman for JOC said the jeep was completely destroyed and the six civilians blown to pieces. He added that the LTTE is trying to create Muslim-Tamil tension in the area. Troops have been sent to prevent clashes between the communities and to search for the terrorists responsible.

Meanwhile, latest reports received from Jaffna state that most of the 865,000 families in Jaffna are being held incommunicado by the LTTE. If anyone dares criticize the terrorist organization, he is either shot dead or imprisoned. Those who join the LTTE are given sufficient food plundered from official stocks while those who refuse to join the LTTE are virtually starved to death.

Operation Launched Against LTTE in Vavuniya

BK2812112892 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Army commandos yesterday launched an operation codenamed Gold Mine against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] southwest of the security forces' defense line in the Vavuniya District. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that one terrorist had been killed and three others wounded. Latest reports stated that the crack military commandos were pursuing the fleeing terrorists. The Sri Lanka Air Force, using its ground attack fighters and helicopter gunships, was reported pounding LTTE targets in Jaffna, Kilinochchi, and Mullaitivu, creating heavy casualties to the terrorists.

Tamil Rebels Kill Four More Soldiers

BK2912163092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1444 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Colombo, Dec 29 (AFP)—Tamil guerrillas ambushed a group of soldiers in northern Sri Lanka

Tuesday [29 December], killing four and seriously wounding another, military sources here said.

Gunmen of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) carried out the attack in the Poonerin sector, just south the LTTE's main stronghold of the Jaffna peninsula, the sources said.

A military spokesman here confirmed the incident but said they were still awaiting details. The attack came a day after six suspected LTTE men drowned and died while trying to escape army gunfire in the eastern province.

Tigers are leading a 20-year-old campaign to establish an independent homeland in the island's northeast where minority Tamils are concentrated. Thousands have died during the guerrilla struggle.

Antiterrorist Security Operations Detailed

BK3012120892 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] The Joint Operations Command headquarters reports that security forces personnel killed six LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists and injured one during an ambush north of Kantalai tank in the Trincomalee District.

Meanwhile, Operation Gold Mine continues at Cheddikulam in the Vavuniya District. Five terrorists are reported killed and 10 wounded during the operation so far. Troops also killed one terrorist when a group of LTTE cadres attempted to infiltrate ten bunker line [as heard] at Tellippalai in Jaffna District. The body recovered last Saturday [26 December] has been identified as that of group leader Nirupam. Air Force planes attacked a communications center and a camp of the LTTE terrorists south of the Jaffna town on Christmas day causing extensive damage. Authoritative defense sources said that the planes launched from the south had swooped down on terrorist targets in the morning less than 24 hours after the terrorists had ambushed and killed some soldiers and wounded several others in the neighboring Mullaitivu District. Military sources said that they believe the raids had killed or wounded at least 10 or 12 terrorists. Meanwhile, a senior officer denied allegations that some civilians had been killed in the attack. He emphasized that there were no attacks on the civilian population. In the past 36 hours ending at 1500 yesterday, 13 terrorists and four volunteer soldiers had been killed in confrontation in the northeast region. At Kumani close to the railway station, four soldiers were killed in a Tiger ambush at about 1330. One Tiger was also killed in the incident. Later, the Army launched a cordon and search operation in the area to capture the attackers.

Security Forces Poised for Offensive on LTTE

BK3112122092 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] The security forces in the north are poised for a major onslaught on the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], following information that the Tigers were preparing a massive attack on the Elephant Pass camp and the forward defense lines of Palaly, military sources said yesterday. According to these sources, the Tigers of reported to have obtained a fresh consignment of rocket-propelled grenades and other weapons to launch fresh attacks on the security forces camp in the North. Naval sources said yesterday that the units of the Karainagar naval base have been put on full alert, following intercepted Tiger radio messages disclosing that the LTTE were planning a major attack on the naval base. Defense authorities in Colombo said the troops in the North are fully equipped to meet any situation with additional aircraft facilities being provided to enable the Air Force to give all air cover to ground troops. Jaffna sources said the LTTE had alerted the civilian population to prepare themselves for outbreaks of hostilities during attacks on the troops. Security forces in the North have warned the civilians to keep away from battle areas for their own safety. They are alerted to attempts by the LTTE to use civilians as human shield.

Meanwhile, the Joint Operations Command in Colombo said that troops had intensified operations in the eastern sector to pursue bands of LTTE who have fled into the jungle areas in Weli Oya, following the killing of 42 soldiers last Thursday. They said the security in the Batticaloa District, Kalmunai, and the (Santamaruvathurai) areas have been tightened to ensure the security of the Muslim villages as there was a move by the LTTE to drive away Muslim villagers from these areas before the end of the year.